

# Kerala in Mumbai

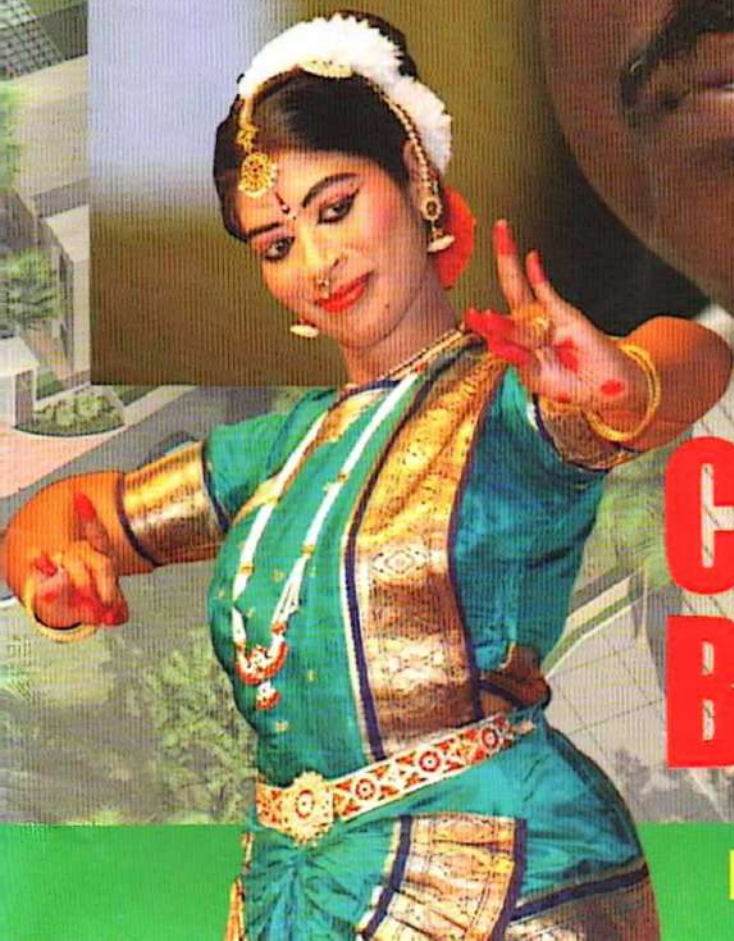
Only English/Malayalam Monthly Magazine linking Mumbai Malayalees

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**Saviour of  
abused  
Girls**

**Kerala Beckons-  
Kochi's Marine Drive**

**Higher  
Education-  
options**



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# 2014 General elections: A Historical event

**T**he years to come shall mark the parliamentary elections of 2014 as a historical event in the greatest democracy of the world. When we are going to the press, 35 crore voters have exercised their franchise in 349 constituencies across the country and by the time you read this, the last phase would be very close to the results. It would be historical because:

1. India being a parliamentary democracy, it was unusual for us to declare a person as the prime ministerial candidate and the entire election process was held as if he needed to be so or not. All other issues were kept aside including the financial status of the nation, the work to be carried out during the next five years, the policy matters for the home and outside and everything else was treated as immaterial. India had seen a prime minister whom everyone in his party and outside respected and did not dare to question his motives or intentions. The President of the party was given only a secondary importance. Now we are seeing that only one person is important and all others are deep down in stature. Now a state CM is all powerful and all others are subservient to him.

2. No party, however popular it was, in the past did consider it was necessary to declare a person prime ministerial candidate as it was the prerogative of the elected members of the majority party to elect him and went through the exercise of electing him. Now that power is indirectly taken away from the members.

3. The value of the voter has gone higher. Considering a minimum of four candidates of political parties contesting in each constituency and each one of them spending the maximum permissible amount for campaigning as minimum, each vote now cost Rs.200 without taking into account the other candidates, the excess amount they clandestinely spent, the amount the government and election machinery spent on the process etc. We are also closing our eyes to the thousands of crores of rupees caught by the authorities for not being accounted for and villages of electorates eagerly waiting for the cash and liquor normally delivered to them on the election eve.

4. The percentage of voting is marginally higher than in the previous elections, it being 51.82 in Mumbai. It is an indication of the keen interest the electorate take in the democratic process. As usual, the literati and celebrities kept away from the polling booths, moving abroad or going to vacation resorts for cooling down, barring a few who showed their left index finger to the cameras so that they could be seen on the TV screen and news papers next day.

5. According to the reports so far received, about 15% of the people in Mumbai eligible to vote did not find their names in the electoral rolls though they voted last time. Indeed a grave incidence when other nations look at us for guiding them in the electoral process! Though the representatives of the election commission apologised for the fall out, they said they were not responsible for the laxity of the citizens. Celebrated legal luminary Ram Jethmalani pointed out that though the flat owners and their families did not find their names in the electoral roll, pertaining to their Advent Apartments in South Mumbai, all their domestic servants were lucky to have their names printed. If it was true, there were somebody turning mischievous while doing their election duty or a party to conspiracy to disfranchise the thinking electorate. Further, the election commission was at fault to have a subordinate staff, least interested in doing their duty or keen on sabotaging the process for being forced to do a job they detested although the commission did its best in publicising the need of protecting the voting rights of the citizens. This aspect needs to be investigated and whoever did this out of vengeance or as a part of abetment of a larger conspiracy should be severely punished.

6. The citizens were at fault as they took it for granted since they had a voter ID card and did not do enough to ensure their names were not missing from the list. In spite of providing the necessary details and photographs to the assigned officials, it was their duty to see that the names were certainly included, as they knew how their compatriots behave.

## Malayalee landmarks in Mumbai

Many thanks for the Vishu - Easter Issue. As usual, you have been able to maintain the punctuality in bringing out the issues and that too with remarkable improvement in contents of each issue. As for the current issue, I would like to appreciate the attempts made by Mr Biju Cherian in highlighting the "Malayalee Landmarks in Mumbai" (Letters to the Editor). In this context I would like to add one more landmark in Mulund West (opp: Johnson and Johnson, LBS Marg) viz., "ezhikkara Ambujakshan Chowk" named in memory of late Shri Ezhikkara Ambujakshan, a well known Malayalam writer and social activist. Perhaps there can be some more addition to such landmarks in Mumbai and KIM readers may like to bring such information to your notice.

C R Unny  
Mulund (W)



Participants and organisers of the Natakakalari (Drama Training) conducted at Nahur by Chembur Pratibha Theatres led by actor Niranjan Menon acting in Asianet TV serial 'Parasparam'.



## Interesting Features

The Vishu Easter Issue of KERALA IN MUMBAI was full of interesting articles and very colourful. Congratulations.

Mohana Natarajan  
Nerul.

## Need For a Spiritual Column

KERALA IN MUMBAI is improving month by month with a varied list of choice subjects, catering to all age groups. Maybe you can start a spiritual column as well including the essence of different religions as a monthly feature. Please publish a regular health and beauty page as well. Your tips on these subjects are very helpful because the products you mention are easily available and reasonably priced.

Karthika Menon,  
Bhandup.

## Thank you KIM

I am a second generation Malayalee brought up in Mumbai. Thanks to your magazine, I am slowly becoming aware of my roots and my state. Every month I look forward to the magazine.

Anish Pillai  
Kandivili.

We welcome responses from readers. Please forward your responses and suggestions about various happenings concerning Malayalees residing in this part of India. You may send us your piece in either English or Malayalam. (We shall translate and publish it in English) You may send them via e-mail to [keralainmumbai@gmail.com](mailto:keralainmumbai@gmail.com) or by post to Editor, Kerala In Mumbai, 105-B, Twin Arcade, Military Road, Marol, Andheri (E) Mumbai 400 059.

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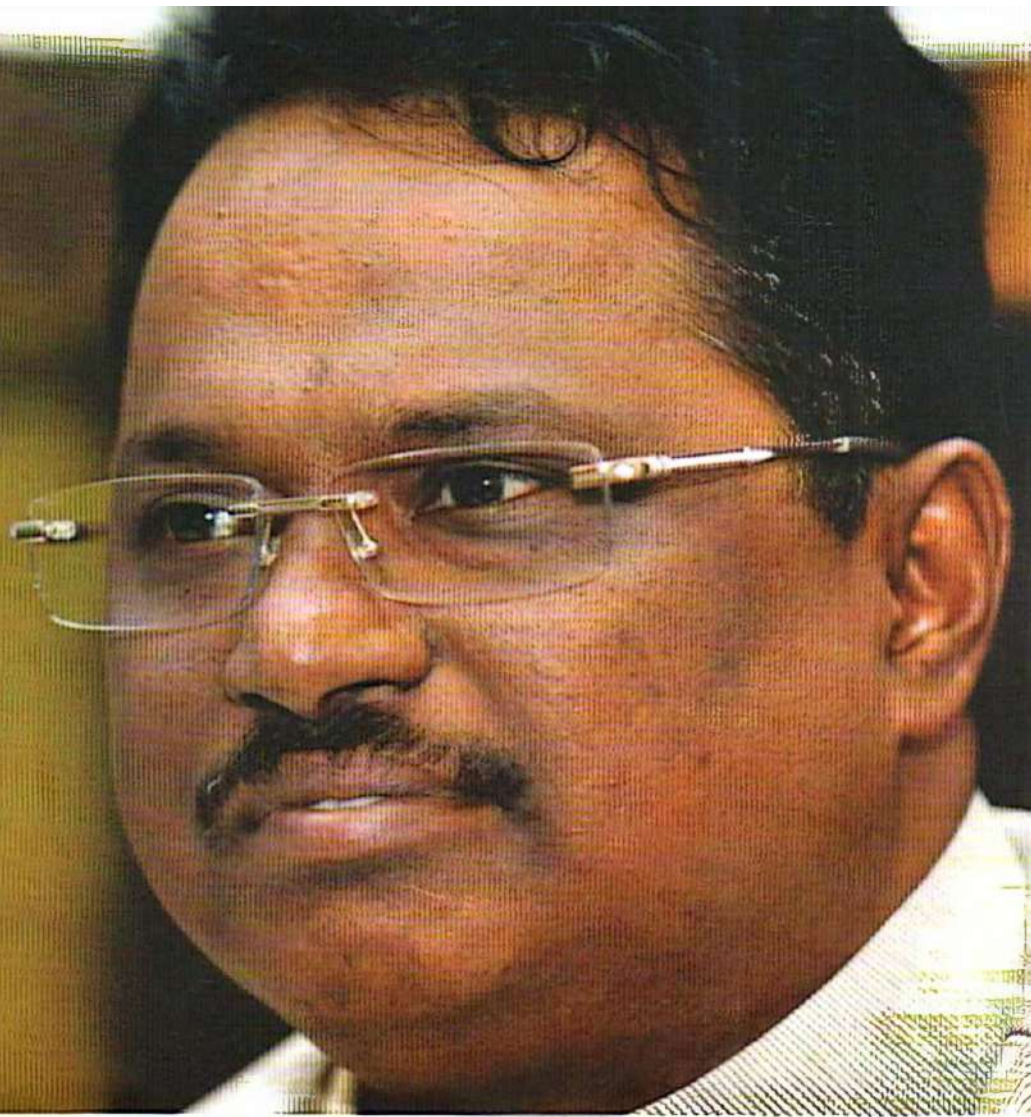
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Roy John Mathew is an icon in Construction business and he has the distinction of providing the largest number of affordable dwellings to the common man in Thane, Kalyan and Titwala as well as building commercial complexes.



Roy John Mathew

# Builder of Charming Constructions



Lakshmi Venkatachalam

Like several other Malayalees who came to Mumbai to earn a livelihood, 18 year old Roy John Mathew came to Mumbai in 1987 with a Diploma in Civil Engineering from his native place, Thiruvalla. He worked for around two years in a private construction company and then decided to step into the construction field on his own. With the help of his two friends, Sanjay Borgaonkar and Bharat Shah, he started work as a Housing Complex Construction contractor

Our main objective in founding Elixir Karunalaya is to make life less difficult for those who are under a cruel spell. Now that we are in a position, we would like to place our humble contribution to the society."

and undertaking contracting jobs for companies like Siemens, Godrej etc. In 2005 he started his own construction company Charms Developers along with two partners Dhiraj Patel and Sanjay Borgaonkar.

### Charms Lifestyle

Today Charms Group is a prominent construction company in Thane, having successfully provided affordable Housing Complexes with all amenities to many families in Thane and

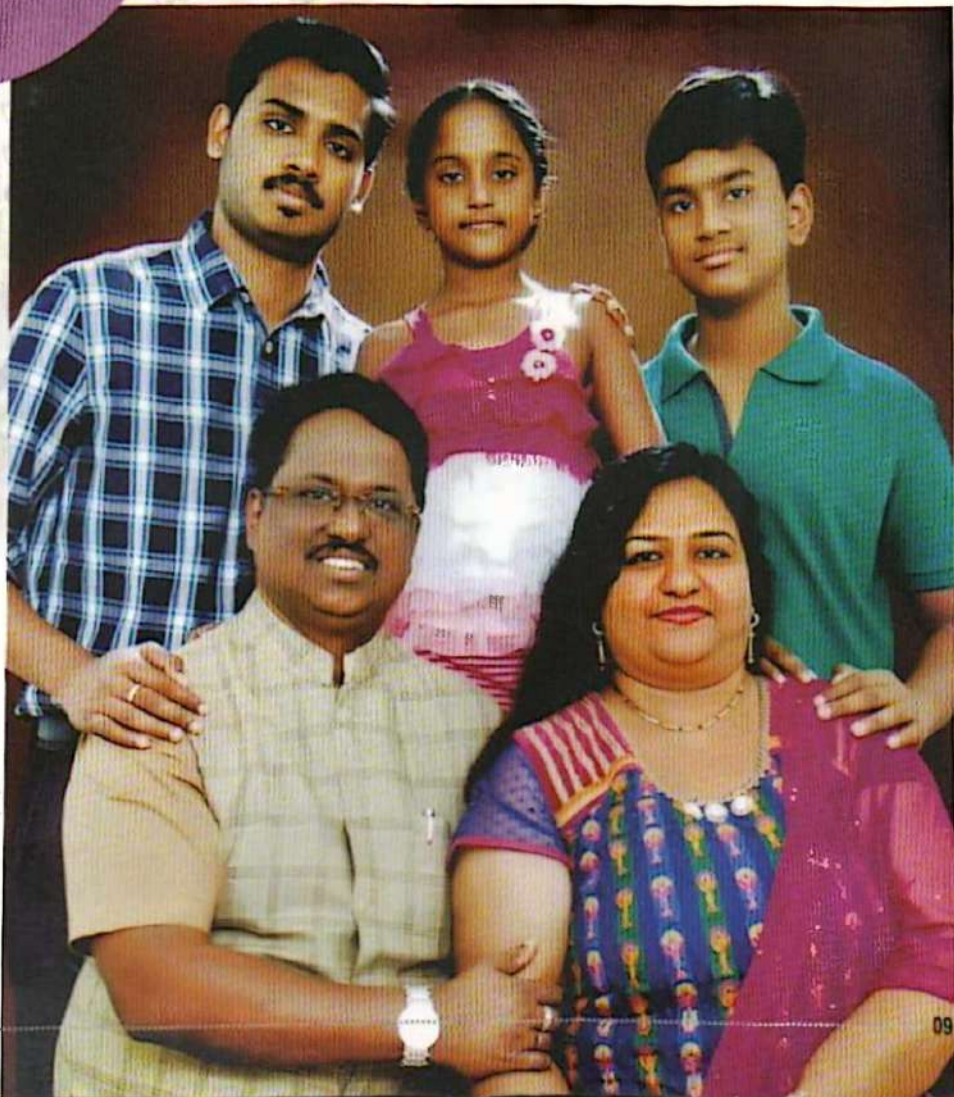


Luxurious villas and residential and commercial complexes are some of Elixir projects.

Inauguration of the first Kerala Project.

Kalyan like Charms Residency in Ghobunder Road, Charms Heritage in Kalyan and Charms Star, a commercial complex in Kalyan. In Titwala their constructions namely Charms Paradise, Charms Heights and Charms City have changed the landscape of this small town. Modern amenities are provided here and the company has further plans to create more and more affordable houses and townships for salaried people in rural areas of Thane namely Vashind, Shahpur, Ambernath, Asangaon and Atgaon.

Recently, Roy was selected as Lokmat Icon Of Thane by Lokmat media for the contributions he did for the development of Thane district. The award was handed over by hon. Col. Cricketer Dilip Vengsarkar and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Harishchandra Patil on December 3rd. He was the only Malayali to receive this award from the 44 personalities selected



John Mathew with his wife Daly John, children and nephew Anoop Anish



**Charms City Project**

by the Lokmat Media. He won this award because of his passion and dedication to his chosen field of work.

**Kerala Projects**

John Mathew is also interested in constructing complexes in Thiruvalla. He runs the company there under the name of Elixir Group and the Directors are his brother Jacob Mathew and nephew Anoop Anish. Luxurious villas and residential and commercial complexes are some of Elixir projects. He has already completed 50 posh villas named Elixir Gardens at Vennikulam in Thiruvalla and a project of 48 apartments with modern amenities

Recently, Roy was selected as Lokmat Icon Of Thane by Lokmat media for the contributions he did for the development of Thane district.

named Elixir Grande is coming up at T K Road in Thiruvalla.

**Family Ties**

John Mathew's parents, late Mathai Mathunni was a farmer and Mrs Aleyamma Mathunni lives in Kerala. He comes from a family of five sisters and three brothers and he stayed with one of his sisters when he first came to Mumbai. Even during

his school days he was interested in the construction business and some of his relatives were in that line.

John Mathew's wife is Mrs Daly John wife and they have two children, their son Romel John is studying in Std X and daughter Hazel John is studying in Std IV, both of them attend Singhania School.

**Elixir Karunalaya**

Keeping the corporate social responsibility in mind,



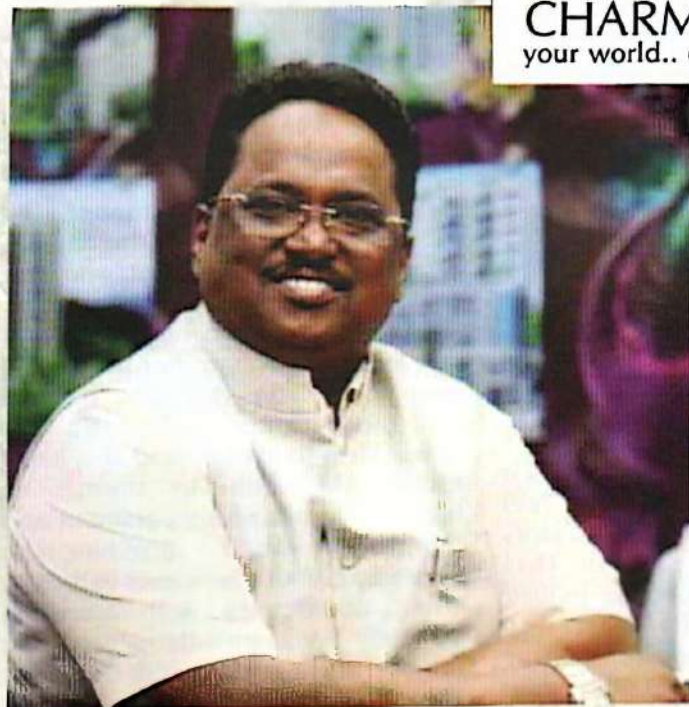
Receiving Lokmat Icon of Thane Award from Cricketer Col. Dilip Vengsarkar



John Mathew speaking at the inauguration of Elixir Karunalaya

he has established a charitable trust 'Elixir Karunalaya' for providing necessary help to the needy people in the society. The services include education aid, marriage aid, hospital needs for poor and so on. Presently there are more than 10 families which he supports monthly for various needs.

"Our main objective is to make life less difficult for those who are



under a cruel spell. Now that we are in a position, we would like to place our humble contribution to the society," he says.

The Trust spent Rs 4 lakhs in the treatment of nine year old Ankita in Thane who was diagnosed with TB. She is now completely cured. Last year the Trust held its first

anniversary function in 2013 that coincided with the 80th birthday of John Mathew's mother Aleyamma Mathunni. As part of its first anniversary celebrations, homes for five homeless families, weddings for five couples, educational assistance to three poor children, medications to three poor cancer patients were carried out. Based on a news report in a Malayalam newspaper in June 2013 about a distressed mother, Ambili In Alappuzha placing two of her children in an orphanage due to poverty, Kerala Elixir Karunalaya stepped forward to help her financially and now the children have been reunited with the mother and the Trust sends every month Rs 10,000 for their expenses.

Karunalaya has plans to set up an old age home in Murbad, Kalyan this year which will help poor people in the slum areas in and around Thane and Kalyan.

### Church activities

John Mathew was Convenor of the building projects of the Thane Marthoma Syrian Church to which he belongs for the past six years and is also a Mandalam member of the Church. ■

# MT: Master craftsman of the shorter version of story telling

- Satyanath



In the fifties, Malayalam short stories started showing positive changes and it was M T Vasudevan Nair in its forefront. MT's craft involved in just indicating the external events while creeping into levels of conscious and subconscious feelings and illuminate them.

**I**t is very tough to analyse the grammar of short story. Earlier a short story was indeed short, describing an incident or involving only a few characters. A wider canvas was not necessary and the climax meticulously built in either to entertain or to shock the reader. In the fifties, Malayalam short stories started showing positive changes and it was M T Vasudevan Nair in its forefront. MT's craft involved in just indicating the external events while creeping into levels of conscious and subconscious feelings and illuminate them.

In a novel, a few pompous words may not hamper the narration while such liberties are highly objectionable in short stories. Every word and sentence has their values. Critics are unanimous in their opinion that MT's stories are not meant to entertain but to shock the reader. *Irruttinte Atmavu* (Soul of darkness) is a valid example. MT's canvas portrays a teenager who is mentally off the track but in all other aspects a normal human being though sometimes a little mischievous. All around him except *Meenakshi*, consider him a lunatic and instead of treating him, chain him



A set of short story collections

and beat him.

Almost all characters in MT's stories are drawn from his familiar environment. Hence one may feel that some of the characters in a story are seen elsewhere. In this connection, we can relate *Irruttinte Atmavu* with *Anthivelicham* and *Kariyilakal mootiya vazhitharakal* (the walking tracks covered by dried

leaves). The last mentioned narrates the meeting of Raghavan with his father whom he never saw in the past. The father was also not aware of the existence of his son. After a one night stand, the father had never thought of mother and the realisation that she never married was shocking to him. Raghavan realises his father's helplessness and has nothing to settle score. The final words of the father that his mother has only he to look after her is indeed heart rendering.

Two stories *Bandhanam* (bondage) and *Varikkuzhi* (elephant trap) reveal diametrically opposite characters. In the former, the husband working in the city has no love for pregnant wife and daughter. But to put up some semblance of a happy married life, he drives to her house and even forgets the medicine his five year old daughter needed. He tells several lies to his wife and she, like a loving wife, believes them. The husband thinks of his paramour and the pleasure she could give him. The very next morning he leaves to the city citing pressures of work. In *Varikkuzhi*, we find *Sankarankutty* of a lower middle class background becoming the second husband of a wealthy

Subhadra and thus becoming very rich though in his mind feels that he becomes a laughing stock. He yearns for freedom but is unable to leave the comforts of a rich life. Finally, when he informs his wife the death of pachyderm, he derives some kind of sadistic pleasure. Thus Varikkuzhi tells us the story of a man who is living under the control of his wife and unable to escape. The title thus becomes a symbol of the plight of the husband.

According to MT, short story is the closest to lyrical poem. Even a little negligence in a sentence could kill a short story. A carelessly written chapter need not diminish the overall impact of a novel but even a wrong word may harm a short story. MT is very careful in the choice of the words used in his stories. His characters do not make any wrongful move or utter a word that would adversely impact the story. This compactness is evident from the various adaptations of his short stories to films. His short stories outnumbered his novels in adaptations to films and they became more successful.

Considering the number of short stories written, MT wrote far less number compared to his contemporaries. Still, he is considered to be a leader to all of them. When a well read person is ever asked to short list a few good short stories, we may find a large number of short stories spelled out belong to him. It means that there is something in his stories that captivates and lingers in the mind of his readers.

### Select stories

There are around a hundred short stories written by M T Vasudevan Nair and they are compiled to around seventeen short books. These stories are again published in the form of selected short stories in bigger



Collections of short stories



M T with wife Saraswathi and daughter Ashwathi



M T with daughter Sitara and son-in-law Sanjay

volumes.

Several critics have chosen different stories as his best short stories. Among them the most chosen are *Irutinte Atmavu*, *Ninte Ormmaykku*, *Kuttiyethathi*, *Olavum theeravum* and *Vaanaprastam*.

Many lament that his main characters are introverts, selfish and self centric. They had a childhood covered with poverty and neglect. Some others say that he drew his characters from his own personal

experience and hence they often resemble each other. Yet, each has its own charm, strength and the characterisation is so vivid that we forget the similarities during the course of the first reading.

MT through his various autobiographical notes has indicated that his birth as the fourth son was disappointing to his parents where as they wished to have a daughter. He also indicated that there were rumours that his father had a daughter in Sri Lanka from another woman. Then suddenly his father arrived with a ten year old girl and a quarrel ensued between his parents and the girl and father moved to his house. This is the basic thread of the story of *Ninte Ormaykku* and it is written as a flashback.

What makes this ordinary story a magnificent one is the treatment given to it by the author. Further, it is written from the viewpoint of the boy who enjoyed her proximity but could not converse with her as she did not know his language. It combines both romanticism and realism. The treatment has great sensitivity and reflected with the poverty then existing in his house, the decadent matriarchal system, the helplessness of the mother as well as her determination to stand against the

injustice meted out to her by her husband etc.

Incidentally MT wrote a sequence to this story much later. *Kudugannava: Oru yathrakurippu* (Kudugannava: A travel note) thus provides a coat of authenticity to the previous one.

Dr M Leelavathy who wrote a detailed treatise for *Asuravithu* came up with detailed study of the characterisation of Karunakaran Master and his decades old student of nine months K S Vinodini of MT's

masterpiece *Vaanaprastham*. Master was 61 and retired and Vinodini was 54 when they silently planned a meet at Mookambika Temple. When Master was young at 23, he was teaching in Pattambi where Vinodini was a tenth standard student. She was an epitome of vivacious youth and both of them were attracted to each other without conveying to each other. After a nine month stint at the school, he was transferred to another school and they never met. She was the daughter of a powerful and rich person and thus he surmised her as unattainable. A special situation in the horoscope compelled her to remain a spinster and a twist of the fortune made her work in Madras for a living and to support her mother. Master was already married and a father but when he received a suggestive letter from her, he secretly withdrew Rs.1000 from his post office account and reached Mookambika. Initially they could not meet each other and when doubts arose in the mind about the presence of the other, they met and spent one day together. They then departed contented with their fate and the story abruptly ended.

In *Ammayku*, one of the memoirs of MT, he mentions about a situation (*Natakantham*) in which he, a teacher in MB Tutorial College and a fifteen year old girl living a few houses away but visible from the college. Some telepathy was at work between them but never a word was exchanged between them except a small note from her, with out a salutation or a name at the end, after MT performed on stage. Probably MT might have expanded that situation and its possibilities into *Vaanaprastham*.

Dr M Leelavathy, in a studied essay, states that in none of the stories of MT, he attempts to delve into the changing patterns of the then society or calls upon to change the decadent situations like Thakazhi, Kesavadev and other



English translations and miscellaneous

contemporaries did. His stories are character centred. He has no mission to accomplish and yet, his stories draw the attention of the reader by their sheer strength. She justifies his narration by pointing out to the truth that the love does not demand echoes of sentiments but the positive response to the love given in equal measure. Love is not physical lust but the embrace of souls and it needs no outward declarations. For an elderly reader, *Vaanaprastham* gives a lot of scope for retrospection and wistfulness.

What makes *Vaanaprastham* a classic? Very difficult to say. When the Master got ready to go to Mookambika, he had some secretive expectations but soon he realised his limitations. When they were young, once Master invited her to his lodge but she did not dare to go. But when she reminds him about it, Master, though he remembers it vividly, simply camouflages it in a counter question, "Is it so?" Afterwards every move is from her side and he gladly responds to them. She invites him to

Mookambika and without any persuasion, he proceeds. She mentions about her wish to meet him several times earlier and even suggests a visit to Kutajadri, by a simple question if he ever visited it. The moment he realises her wish, he is ready and is willing to spend Rs.300 from his hard earned and saved money to please her. She even wished to have a photograph of them taken together. When they spend the night together, so close on a double bed and yet mentally far, she confesses to him, "...there was not a single day that she did not curse her father," for opposing their marriage. The success of the story lies in the very short period of nine months of their undeclared love and the long separation of 38 years without any communication and then the realisation that the cinders of love are still strong in them. Yet they depart in the morning without any regrets.

Rarely such stories are written in the world literature.

### Foray into films

Unlike Kesava Dev, Thakazhi and others, MT has not written an autobiography. His admirers though resent it, find solace by reading a few memoirs he penned in a few magazines and later compiled in book forms, namely *Ammayku* and *Snehadarangalote*. They are powerful like his stories and the youngsters can draw a few lessons from them. When we go through the stories we find several sentences that we heard or read in MT's movies or short stories and draw the conclusion that his stories are nothing but his autobiographic notes.

M T Vasudevan Nair can rightly claim that he is the first writer who raised screenplays to the level of literature. Hundreds of successful movies were made in Malayalam before his entry into the film world. Yet it was his *Murhappennu* that appeared in book form and provided



Screenplay collections

respectability to screenplays. Later many of his screenplays became popular books and some of them even were compiled to form Selected Works. One may surprise to know that he wrote more screenplays than the number of novels and compilations of short stories.

In its Introduction, MT explains the difference between the story and its film script. The basic story of Murhappennu was adapted from his short story, *Snehathinte Mukhangal* (Faces of love). He further states that he brought an event and a character from *Naalukettu* and the cattle race from *Asuravithu*.

The story revolves around the sacrifice of the elder brother Balan for the benefit of his younger brother Aniyam. The sacrifice includes his higher studies and his cousin Bhagi, whom he loved. It was a highly sensational and successful movie. Prior to this film, its director A Vincent creditably directed Basheer's *Bhargavi Nilayam* and raised the

expectations of the viewers. It was further raised by MT, by his first foray into filmhood.

The character Balan gives way to his younger brother for higher studies by giving up his own studies. This has a link to MT's own life. When MT passed SSLC, his family was undergoing a financial crisis. His elder brother was already studying in Mangalore and sending MT to college was a little doubtful. MT was worried. Then his elder brother Kuttiettan consoled him saying that he was willing to discontinue his studies to enable Vasu to continue as he was a better student. May be this incident might have prompted MT to build the story for his first film. When you delve into the vast number of scripts written by MT, you might encounter similar incidents in abundance and this must have certainly played a major role in the popularity of his screenplay and script.

A Sajeewan attempted to draw a life sketch of MT based on his novels

and short stories. His was more or less a successful attempt. Soon after MT received the Jnanpith Award, Mathrubhumi Weekly published a special issue, bringing articles by his colleagues, friends and admirers together. Many of those articles were later edited and compiled by Dr M M Basheer into a book titled MT: *Kathayum Porulum* (MT: the stories and conclusions). This book was published by Current Books of Thrissur. The book also contains articles by well known critics, delving into the psych of his characters as well as his craft.

It is beyond doubt that M T Vasudevan Nair will be known as a doyen among all short story writers of Kerala. His contributions to the Malayalam literature are well recognised and appreciated. There is hardly any award or recognition that he did not receive in India, barring the much coveted Nobel. He may receive that too, who knows? ■

### It happened with-22

## Malayalam film industry of the 1960s



CSR Rao in Bhakta Kuchela



Kunchacko

In the fifties, there were only a few film producers in Kerala. P Subrahmanyam of Merryland, Kunchacko of Udaya, T E Vasudevan of the Associated, T K Pareekutty of Chandrathara etc were among them. Other producers were one time wonders. Subrahmanyam and Kunchacko were studio owners too and were churning out movies one after the other. When only a few movies, say 3 to 4, were released a year and so there was no competition existed among them.

Soon the scene changed when two movies Sita of Kunchacko and Poothali of Subrahmanyam released simultaneously in 1960. Since the dates were announced earlier, the producers were aware of this fact. Now the question before them was how to outscore the other in the box office. Sita easily won in the race as it was a direct lift from the Hindi trilogy by Vijay Bhatt and a deadly combat in the media ensued. After one week of release, Kunchacko publicised the addition of thirty minutes of comedy scenes to the picture.

When Udaya announced Unniarcha, in black

and white, with Sathyan, Prem Nazir and Ragini, Subrahmanyam produced Christmas Rathri but inserted the story of Unniarcha in colour in it. Kunchacko retaliated with an advertisement that along with the movie of Christmas Rathri, a trailer of Unniarcha would be shown. Then Subrahmanyam advertised the addition of fight



Muthiah and Prem Nazir in Krishna Kuchela

scenes of Unniarcha in his movie. Unniarcha won in this case. Then Subrahmanyam announced Bhakta Kuchela with two Telugu stars and Kumari with an eye in AP and TN with dubbed versions. Kunchacko retaliated with Krishna Kuchela with Prem Nazir, Muthiah and Ragini. The former was a super hit while the latter had to be withdrawn within a week. By the time Bhakta Kuchela had its dream run of 50 days in A class theatres, Krishna Kuchela finished with B and C class theatres. When Bhakta Kuchela reached those theatres, poor audience mistook it

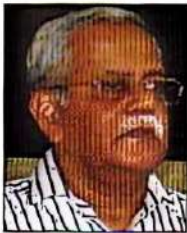
for the other and did not patronise it much though later it had a reasonable run.

Both producers realised that this kind of competition was not healthy and avoided similar events later. Can we imagine similar rivalries when on every Friday 3 to 4 movies are released?

# PROFESSOR MUNDASSERY

“Education as the main building block of culture and social development, has to be progressive, democratic and value-based, the administration of which has to be transparent. It must be free from profit motive. It must ensure merit and social justice.”

These were the *ipsisima verba* of a giant of a man reputed for his stern convictions on public education.



K. R. NARAYANAN

■ It was none but Prof Joseph Mundassery (17.07.1903 - 25.10.1977), popular as Mundassery Master to our generation and the generation before us. The

very thought of Mundassery Master brings in nostalgic memories of literature, education and the political world of the erstwhile Cochin principality, United States of Travancore-Cochin and the early period of the present Kerala. Though he has had very many deviations from his convictions in his later life, Mundassery's role in the socio-cultural, literary, educational and political fields of Kerala and the country, was very significant. Mundassery Master was an administrator, educationist, orator, politician and above all a great writer-critic, all clubbed into one. There are very few people who could share his status and versatility in these fields.

The progressive literary movement of Kerala owes a great deal to the seminal contributions of Mundassery Master. He was instrumental in establishing Kerala Sahitya Akademi and Kendra Sahitya Akademi and was the President of Kerala Sahitya Parishad during 1965-67. Also, he was the

founding member of Kerala Sahitya Akademi and a member of its executive committee. He was the President of progressive literary forum and received the titles of 'Sahitya Kusala' and 'Sahitya Nipuna' from the Maharaja of Cochin. The Professor took over as the First Vice-Chancellor of Cochin

University in 1972. He also functioned as Member of World Peace Council and had served as a Member of the State Planning Board. Mundassery Master was the

## A Literary Giant

While celebrating the centenary year of the birth of Prof Joseph

Mundassery in 2003, Sahitya Akademi described him thus: “Born on July 17, 1903, at Kandassankadavu of Thrissur District, Prof Mundassery was not only an intellectual but also an active public figure. Critic, social reformer, literary and educational thinker, publisher, teacher, public speaker, novelist, translator, writer, biographer...all these descriptions apply equally well to this prodigious social activist, and testify to the wide sweep and immense depth of his intellect”.

The Professor had more than fifty literary works to his credit and was also the editor of the dailies like 'Navajeevan' and 'Prajamithram' and various other literary journals. The complete collection of the literary criticisms written by Prof Joseph Mundassery has been compiled in 2 volumes titled “Mundassery Krithikal”. It contains his works

including Mattoli, Roopabhadra, Karinthiri, Rajarajante Mattoli, Natakantham Kavithvam, Vayanasalayil, Asan Kavitha Pathanam, Vallathol Kavitha Pathanam etc. Similarly, his autobiography titled “Kozhinja Ilakal”



Prof Joseph Mundassery

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Mundassery Master (sitting at extreme right) in the Sahithya Parishad

(in two parts) is also a milestone of Malayalam language and its literature.

His literary accomplishments include books such as "Professor", 'Konthayil ninum Kurisilekku', 'China-Forward', 'Vayanasalayil', 'Manushya kathanugayikal' and an autobiography 'Kozhinja Ilakal', "Kavyapeethika", Otta Notathil, Budhimaanmar Jeevikkunnu, China Munnottu, Chinthamadhuri, Prayanam, Parapurathu Vithacha Vithu, Anthareeksham, Kristhwanukaranam, Matham Avideyum Ivideyum, Paschathya Sahitya Sameeksha, Illapoliche, Sammanam, The Autobiography Kozhinja Ilakal Kataaksham, and the like.

As an author of repute and as a literary critic, Professor Mundassery's contribution to the Malayalam literature was

substantial. It is often said that "Mundassery combined Western and native literary theories, captured their essence, and arrived at a conclusion that theories, though expressed in different ways, are the same in all languages. His book 'Kaavyapeethika' explains this aspect. Only a literary connoisseur can become a good critic, and Mundassery was a prime example".

Prof. Sukumar Azhikode said the number of people who read and appreciated literary criticisms was on the decline in Kerala, since the quality of such works used to be poor. But, sharing his admiration for celebrated literary critics in Malayalam like Kuttikrishna Marar and Joseph Mundassery, Azhikode said that they could gift a golden era of constructive criticism in Malayalam for the readers.

Besides being a well-known literary critic, Mundassery Master

was a good orator, a great thinker, and a renowned educationist. His works included literary criticism, autobiography, travelogues and novels besides several articles on varied topics.

### Personal Life

Prof. Joseph Mundassery was born in Manaloor (Thrissur district), on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 1903, as the son of Kunjuvareed and Elachar. He had his early schooling in Kandassankadavu Primary School. This school was later renamed after its prodigious son, as Prof. Joseph Mundassery Smaraka Government Higher Secondary School). Mundassery was married to Katherene and the couple had four sons and three daughters. Subsequently, he studied in the St. Thomas College, Thrissur and in the St. Joseph College, Tiruchirappalli. He did his graduation in Physics and Post-graduation in Sanskrit and



Kuttikrishna Marar  
Prof. Mundassery's contemporary  
literary critic



St. Joseph Primary Manalur Grama Panchayat School, Kandassankadavu



St. Thomas College, Thrissur

Malayalam.

Mundassery began his teaching career as Demonstrator in Physics and rose to become the Professor and Head of the Department of Oriental Languages in the very same St. Thomas College, at Thrissur, till he left the teaching career in 1952.

### Political Career

A former Professor having a long association with the academic field, Mundassery served as a member of Travancore-Cochin Legislative Assembly from 1949 to 1956. He entered politics through Cochin Prajamandalam and was elected as a member of the Legislative Council of the princely State of Cochin in 1948 from Aranattukara. Later he was elected as Member of Travancore-



*Memoirs of Mundassery The Literary Criticisms Mundassery Krithikal*

Cochin Legislative Assembly in 1954, from Cherpu. He was elected to the first Kerala Legislative Assembly from Manalur Constituency, as a member of the Communist Party of India. During his stint as the Minister for Education and Co-operation in the Ministry headed by E M S Nampoothiripad, he was

responsible for innovative legislations in the field of education. And coming from an educationist, these reforms gave new developmental directions to the higher education sector in the State.

When Prof. Mundassery took over as the Minister for Education, the system of education management in Kerala was rather disorganized. The private managements were enjoying unfettered freedom in appointing teachers, payment of salaries and administration of the schools. The Kerala Education Act, a brain child of Mundassery, sought to bring in some degree of order and control in the management of schools. The Act did never provide for the takeover of appointment of teachers by the government. It only provided for the selection of teachers by the Public Service Commission, but reserved the right of the management to appoint teachers in aided schools from the PSC list. But the minimum qualification of teachers, their conditions of service etc. were to be decided by the Government and the remunerations were to be paid directly from the Government Treasury. The Act also provided for the takeover of management of schools for a maximum period of five years, if the schools failed to comply with the provisions of the Act. The rules and regulations of the Government Department were made applicable to the private schools as well. The Bill also provided for establishment of local education councils. Mundassery, as the Education Minter, was the driving force behind this historical legislation



Photo Session of the First Ministry of Kerala. Mundassery second from left

enacted at that time (The Kerala Education Act, 1958) which used to be hailed, once upon a time, as "Kerala's Magna Carta."

### The Liberation Struggle

Even a modicum of external interference was enough to invite the wrath of the managements of educational institutions, as they were till then unused to any kind of control over their functioning. There was absolutely no regulation worth the name in appointment of teachers, payment of salaries or provision of grants from Government. Hence, what followed was an undemocratic and unconstitutional attack on the legitimately established Government of the State. The so called 'Liberation Struggle' or 'Vimochana Samaram' was meticulously and vigorously conducted under the leadership of the religious establishments (which owned most of the private schools) with the connivance of the



opposition parties. The Liberation Struggle unleashed violence in every nook and corner of the State. It had the wholehearted support of the ruling Government at the Centre.

Finally the Centre intervened and dismissed the democratically elected Government of Kerala, invoking Article 356 of the Constitution of India, under the pretext of failure in law and order.

Though Mundassery was again elected to the fourth Kerala Legislative Assembly from Thrissur Constituency as an independent candidate, he resigned from the membership of the Assembly on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 1971 to assume charge as the Vice-Chancellor of the Cochin University of Science and Technology.

Mundassery Master passed away on October 25, 1977, at the age of 74. But, even now he is remembered as a renowned literary critic and a very scrupulous politician from Kerala State. He earned a place for himself as the only Education Minister who could mastermind a great revolution in the management of education system. ■

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## Tribute to 'Mitraniketan' Viswanathan

# Pioneer in Voluntary Social Action

K. Viswanathan, popularly known among the inmates as Valiannan (Big Brother) or as 'Mitraniketan' Viswanathan for well-wishers passed away at the age of 86 on April 28, 2014. The body was cremated with full official honours at the Mitraniketan premises. He is survived by his wife Sethulakshmi Viswanathan, daughters Asha, Beena and Chitra and sons-in-law Dr. Reghu Ramdas, Principal, Mitraniketan People's College and R. Rama Babu, Additional Sessions Judge. The author has visited Mitraniketan on couple of occasions in the past and has been its well-wisher for the past thirty years. The article is a tribute to this great son of Kerala.



V.N. Gopalakrishnan

■ K. Viswanathan founded Mitraniketan ("Abode of Friends"), a non-governmental organisation, at his native village Vellanad, 25 kms away from

Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala in 1956. Mitraniketan is working in the fields of innovation, training and extension in community development, environment, science, education and appropriate technology. He served as its Director till the end and his name was synonymous with voluntary social action.

Mitraniketan operates on a 60-acre campus in architecturally untraditional buildings with classrooms dotted around in a hilly green palm forest. There is a children's hostel, a students' college and hostel, a gym and sports field, a guest house, vocational training workshops, small art and grocery shops, a small but exquisite bakery, a pottery, offices etc. Architecturally noteworthy are especially the open assembly hall and the modest but beautiful home of Viswanathan and his wife, Sethulakshmi Viswanathan, at the centre of the settlement.

An alumni of Shantiniketan, he was a pioneer in voluntary social action across the country and globally recognized for his vision and commitment to the



cause of the socially marginalized. His endeavours over these more than 50 years have established the place as an internationally reputed institution for learning and development. This largely residential educational community supports the academic and practical training needs of each participant.

He has to his credit several innovative interventions which have been widely replicated by others. He was the patron of Kerala Voluntary Action League (KAVAL), a network of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

Born in 1928 as the son of Krishna Panicker and G. Karthyani,

Viswanathan graduated from Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan, West Bengal and studied educational development in USA and Scandinavia. He was inspired by Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi, besides westerners like Pestalozzi and Grundtvig, the founder of the Danish "Folk High School".

Mitraniketan Vishwavidyapeetam for Open Learning & Total Development was begun



Dalai Lama with Viswanathan at Mitraniketan



**K. Viswanathan and Sethulakshmi Viswanathan in front of their home**

with a view to offering education and training in a holistic spirit to primarily socially underprivileged children and youngsters. It focuses on alternative education mode for development. As this project became a huge success, Vishwanathan converted it into a Malayalam medium school. Now it is known as the Mitraniketan Vikas Bhavan School (Primary & Secondary). It is not a regular school but, aims at developing active citizenship among the students by developing their innate potentials.

Nursery and Kindergarten called Sisu Bhavan are provided with a midday meal and transportation at a reasonable cost based on the concept that "play is children's work".

Primary and Secondary Schools called Vikas Bhavan are for the children mostly tribals from the age-group of 5 to 15 years. The school imparts an integrated education which makes it different from ordinary schools.

Mitraniketan People's College (MPC), modelled on the gurukula system of education and the Danish Folk High Schools was started in 1996 and is aimed at providing opportunities for continuing education and impart the spirit of Life Long Learning for empowering rural youth.

**Open University Study Center:** Two courses were started in 2007 such as, Motorcycle Service & Repair and Fruits & Vegetable-based products through the Indira Gandhi National Open University.

Study Center for NIOS (National Institute of Open Schooling)

Certification programs bridge 9th Standard, Secondary and Senior Secondary exams. Vocational classes for Secondary students include Computer studies, Plumbing, Electrical, Carpentry and Agricultural skills.

Women's Empowerment / Extension Programs support different Women's groups from micro-credit to soap-making; from civic matters to health and nutrition training. Mitraniketan Nodal Continuing Education Centre of the Kerala State Literacy Mission promotes functional literacy among



**Author with K.Viswanathan at a felicitation function of Shantiniketan students at Mumbai**

women.

Education Extension Center located in the tribal dominated district of Wynad district of Kerala focuses on the empowerment of tribal youth, especially women.

Center for Education, Research, Innovation and Development (CERID) aims at coordinating the education programmes, conducting action research studies, developing teaching materials and engaging in documentation and publication.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (Farm Science Center) is an institutional project funded by Indian Council of Agriculture Research, New Delhi established in 1979 at Mitraniketan to work on transfer of technology with the objective to bridge the gap between technology and Krishi Vigyan Kendra. It has six important sections to cater to the needs of the farmers and other associated stakeholders who use land and water for their livelihood. They are: Agronomy, Agriculture Engineering, Agriculture Extension, Animal Science, Horticulture, Home Science and Fisheries.

Rural Technology Center (RTC) is a Production and Training center aimed at upgrading the livelihood skills of rural artisans and youth in the non-farm sector which includes Pottery, Carpentry, Forging and Coir fibre product manufacturing.

Research and Development in Appropriate Technology programmes concentrate on water and sanitation, low-cost construction technology, development of artisan tools and machinery and natural dye. Mitraniketan has a Core-Support group of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Technology Resource Center of CAPART

K. Viswanathan was honoured by the Government of India in 2009 by conferring on him the Padmashri Award. He was a winner of many awards and fellowships, including the Platinum Jubilee Endowment Trust Award by Indian Merchants' Chamber, K P Goenka Award for Environment, the Jamnalal Bajaj Award for application of science and technology in rural areas, Ratindra Puraskar from Vishwa Bharati and Henry Dunot Red Cross award. Mitraniketan founded by the great visionary will continue to serve the humanity in the years to come. ■



Ranjini Nambisan

# Sensitive Dancer

Ranjini Nambisan (Ranjini Siddharth) has been fascinated by dance since she was a child

A young artiste of Mumbai, Ranjini is a Bharatanatyam dancer, teacher, choreographer and learned this classical dance from Kalanjali Dance Academy under Guru Ms. Vasanta and Ms. Subhalakshmi in a Panthanellur Style and was awarded Master Diploma In Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi from Bharatiya Sangeet Samiti, Mumbai in 1999.



## Education

Ranjini Nambisan is a Mumbai Malayalee girl, born and brought up in a traditional art family in this city. She completed her schooling at Model English School, Dombivli under the SSC Board and also completed her B. Com in Banking and Insurance with First Class. She continued her study at the Institute For Technology and Management, Southern New Hampshire University and availed Master of Business Administration (MBA) Programmes



**Ranjini with her students**

with specialisation in Human Research Management in 2012.

### Multi-faceted Talent

At the age of four Ranjini showed her talent by doing a Kathakali item of Sari Dance on her birthday for five minutes which was her debut programme, having been trained by her father. While she was in school she had participated in dance and singing programmes. She is also well trained in the Carnatic Music, having learnt from All India Radio artiste T N Ashok, Shri Ranjini Sangeet Sabha, Dombivili for more than 5 years. Ranjini is learning veena from her mother Smt. Girija Nambisan who is Diploma holder from Karnataka.

### Performances

Ranjini has participated in several Classical dance and Folk Dance competitions in Maharashtra and won Merit Certificates. She has participated in Senior Dance Category of Bharatanatyam organised by Kanak Sabha Performing Arts Centre. She had given solo Bharatanatyam performance 'Nritya Ranjini' consecutively for 4 years since 2002 in Kerala, organised by Ranjini Rasik Sabha Trust, Nelluvai registered under Kerala Sangeet Nataka Akademy, Thrissur. She has also given Bharatanatyam performance at Kalakendram Sangeetha Sabha, Pattambi in Kerala in 2004 and was



**Ranjini with husband Siddharth**

awarded merit certificate for her outstanding performance. Ranjini has performed Bharatanatyam on different stages in and around Mumbai and even abroad. Ranjini performed at Akhila Bharatiya Sanskrutik Sangh's Cultural Harmony 2010 at Pune and was awarded "Talent Certificate". Ranjini has participated in several dance ballets like Bhasmasura-Mohini, Shree Dharma Sastha, Kaleeya Mardhanam, Pasupathasthram, in major roles, presented and directed by her father Akademi Awardee Kalashree

Lalitha Kalalayam Nambisan who is a well - known percussion artiste, guru and dance choreographer and working with Nalanda Nritya Kala Maha Vidyalayr.

### Performances Abroad

Ranjini was invited to Singapore for performing a major role in a Dance Ballet of Tulsidas Ramayana directed by Guru Smt. Siri Rama of Singapore in 2009 in a Fine Arts Festival. Her father Lalitha Kalalayam Nambisan was also invited for the Percussion Accompaniments for the Ballet.

### Family

Ranjini's mother Smt. Girija P. Nambisan is a veena player and brother Rajesh P Nambisan is well versed in mridangam and chenda.

Ranjini is married to Siddharth who is working in a private bank as an officer.

### Dance Teacher

Foe several years now Ranjini is teaching Bharatanatyam at Mumbai's well known Dance Institution Lalitha Kalalayam Fine Arts Akademy (Regd), at Thakurwadi, Dombivili West and recognised by Kerala Sangeet Nataka Akademi, for more than 35 students. She is also choreographing and teaching cinematic and folk dances to children and for the school students. ■

# kalpavriksh - Healing Beyond Technology & Antibiotics



Gerard Joseph

India is moving ahead with industrialisation, and over a period of time, millions have got out of their poverty, thanks to technology and industry. The nation will have many challenges to face, and the most important one will be to create an effective national health care system. Cardiovascular diseases and diabetes have spread like epidemics in our country. Findings show that over 40% of the population is anaemic, primarily due to improper diet that lacks nutrition and errant lifestyle.

Hippocrates, the father of modern medicine, says, "For where there is love of man, there is also love of the art of healing. For some patients, though conscious that their position is perilous, recover their health simply through their contentment with the physician".



Effective health care can be achieved when technology is used judiciously in conjunction with the ancient principles of healing. Dr Bernard Lown, eminent cardiologist, says that what health care demands is medicine with a human face. Our missionary hospitals are doing an exemplary job, thanks to the nuns and priests, and a few good doctors who have dedicated their lives for a noble cause. The nurses, mostly from Kerala, deserve a worthy mention, too. Selflessness and empathy can never be 'manufactured' or corporatised.

kalpavriksh, the Ayurvedic centre for ethical healing and optimum wellness, has strived all along to avoid becoming a business. Healing and patient wellness are our priorities. Our family of doctors and therapists experience the joy of healing in the day-to-day challenges in attending to various ailments. This in itself is a learning and fulfilling experience. Absolutely no

compromise is made in the quality of the therapies.



kalpavriksh wants to contribute its mite to the health care system by providing yearly Ayurveda programmes for rejuvenation and well being. These will be held in our clinics and hospitals where families and individuals can spend quality time with emphasis on regaining total health in mind and body in a natural, non-invasive manner. Special care and attention will be given to the seniors. Healthy vegetarian food will be served. A plant-based diet will not cause heart problems, uric acid and cholesterol build-up or many of the cancers which are common now. It's about time we took notice of these facts. This is how we take care of our health in the real sense.

All said and done, many things are left to be undone, as this glorious month of April passes us by. Let us not take our bodies for granted. Vibrant, good health for us and our loved ones is a primary objective. At kalpavriksh, we are committed to helping you achieve optimum health and wellness in mind and body by identifying the underlying causes of ailments using the time-tested principles of Ayurveda, diet and nutrition.

No part of our body is 'dispensable', be it the appendix, the thyroid gland, the gall bladder or the gangrenous toe — even though we may have an insurance cover on the medical bills.

(The author is the founder of kalpavriksh. He is an Ayurveda and Panchkarma consultant, and a freelance writer on health, nutrition and Ayurveda. He can be contacted on 9920178202/9322942311 or on [absoluteayurveda@gmail.com](mailto:absoluteayurveda@gmail.com))

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## Anson Thomas

# Saviour Of Abused Victims

- Elvee

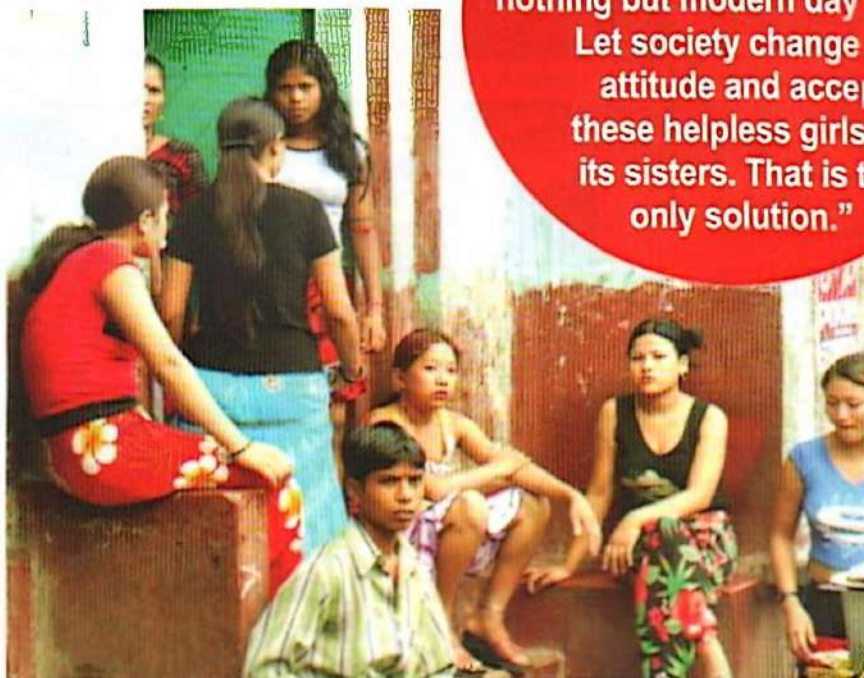
The turning point in social activist Anson Thomas' life came when he went on a church picnic to Lonavala with other parishioners on October 2, 1991

**T**he then 25 year old Anson Thomas and a few of his friends took some beer (though it was a dry day), and was confronted by the priest. He felt ashamed of himself and decided that never again would he touch drinks in his life. He promised this to his own father and to the church priest and above all took a vow in front of Lord Jesus also that he would not touch liquor in his life. Since that momentous day, Anson carries the Holy Bible with him wherever he goes.

Anson Thomas's mission in life is to rescue helpless women trapped in brothels in Kamathipura, the red light area of Mumbai and help them regain their normal life and self respect. Over a period of 20 years he has succeeded in rescuing about 750 girls from the flesh trade, no small achievement considering the powerful goons and corrupt officials he has had to encounter during his rescue operations. His helping hands have reached out to several other harassed girls in Delhi, Kolkotta,



Anson Thomas along with Sachin Tendulkar with his autograph on the T shirt to Stop Human Trafficking.



A Scene of Kamathipura

Pune and other cities also.

Anson Thomas started working with the children of the women of Kamathipura in 1991-92. In fact his social work started even earlier in 1989 when he joined the Customs after B Com from Podar College Mumbai.

Anson has represented his school and college for football and hockey tournaments and also represented all Indian

Universities in the nationals.

Later he completed his M Com from Podar College in 1991. He has played hockey for Indian Customs as well as Mumbai Customs teams.

As a young bachelor after he took the vow to avoid drinks, Anson used to counsel streetwalkers, pimps and clients who wandered on the streets at night to give up the bad habit and its risks on one's health. He also started visiting Kamathipura where young girls are

**"My vision and mission is to see the whole red light area to green light area. Prostitution is nothing but modern day slavery. Let society change its attitude and accept these helpless girls as its sisters. That is the only solution."**



**Anson Thomas and Murali Kartik with the banner Not For Sale**

bought and sold. His first step was to rehabilitate the children of the sex workers so that they can have a normal childhood and education. What began as an urge to spend some time with these children became a mission in his life. The atrocities heaped on the helpless women compelled him to take up their cause. To win over their trust and confidence Anson started playing football with the children. He brought to the notice of his church about the plight of the sex workers and their children and Church extended a helping hand. The Navjeevan Centre was formed by the Mumbai diocese of Marthoma Syrian Church to rehabilitate children of Kamathipura, provide them education and developmental activities. Today the Navjeevan Centre with several branches in Mumbai and its vicinity is headquartered at Murbad Taluk Kalyan District. Some of the older children are now MBAs, nurses, and computer savvy youngsters.

In 2009 CNN - IBN and Reliance Industries awarded him the Real Hero's Award for Women Empowerment', a cash award of Rs. 5,00,000 which he donated to one of the victims whom he had rescued in 1996.

"My focus is on the red light area to rescue those girls who are forced into prostitution, and help them escape from the clutches of the brothel keepers," he says.

Anson took voluntary retirement from the Customs where he was working as an officer so that he could

devote full time to his social work.

"My fight is against the system, not just brothel owners but the system that allows such things to happen. People must be made sensitive to this issue. We must change our attitude and look upon these girls as our sisters, daughters, children, only then we can eradicate this shame from our society," he says.

Things are slowly improving, several brothels have been sealed and owners convicted; when the girls are returned to their relatives, things are carried out discreetly so that they are not stigmatised in their

native places etc.

Anson feels that these victims need the human touch of compassion and understanding, having gone through mental trauma and stress. It takes time to heal their wounds and more people must come forward to help them lead normal lives once again.

In fact one of Anson's friends has been inspired to help victims in the red light area in Delhi, on seeing Anson's service.

The work that Anson does carries risks and threats to him and his family, false allegations and dangers: FIRs have to be filed, he has to attend court summons, and continue his rescuing and rehabilitation activities. But Anson has faith in the judicial system that can differentiate between truth and falsehood.

Anson's parents are the late P C Thomas who worked for Voltas in Mumbai and Mariamma Thomas. Hailing from Pathanamthitta, he was born and brought up in Mumbai and did his schooling at OLPS in Chembur. His wife is Rachel who works as ground staff in Air India. He parents are the late K P Chacko and the late Elizabeth Chacko. She is also born and brought up in Mumbai. They have two daughters, the elder one Rebecca is doing her FYBSC at St. Xavier college fort and Ruth, the younger girl, going to Std VII at St Charles High School in Vakola. ■

## Wedding Anniversary



**Congratulations to Girish and Meghana on their 1st Wedding Anniversary**

# Higher Education For a Bright Future

Post Std XII comes the stress of choosing a good college for completing a course that has good career prospects.

**I**t is the dream of almost all bright students to join the engineering stream and that too the prestigious IITs. But the future is not lost for those who do not clear the JEE. There are options wide enough to make a success of your career no matter what institution you get admission in so long as it is a recognized one.

## Basic rules

Higher education in India has undergone a sea change. Today there are several options to choose from according to the students' interests and passion. Specialisations are available in different subjects. The canvas is wide.

Students sometimes choose a particular college because it is the most common choice of the majority or because the college is old or even because it is a matter of pride to be an alumni of that college. The student must first ensure that the college he chooses has good teaching facilities in the subject of his choice and placement opportunities once he completes the course.

Today the trend is to recruit graduates not just based on their scoring high marks. Equal emphasis is given to extra curricular activities, presentation skills and personality development.

The student must follow a set of guidelines while studying so that they can pass the examinations comfortably and settle fast in life.

It may sound old fashioned but it is always good not to bunk classes. Pay attention to what is taught in the class. Jot down notes as the teacher takes the lessons. Later when you prepare for examinations you can refer the notes and this will save you a lot of time that you would



otherwise spend just surfing the net for matter.

Do networking with friends and others who are interested in the same subject. Follow blogs of experts of your subject. These will all bring out the best in you.

Indulge in sports activities. This is a great stress buster and inculcates the team spirit in the students.

During the summer months it is wise to do internships with a company. The hands - on experience reflects well in the CV that you will prepare for a job.

Keep abreast of the latest in technology. The twenty first century is the age of technology and students must be aware of the latest in technology.

## Global Education

There are several courses foreign universities that offer prestigious courses within India where the students will have to spend a part of the study time abroad. This is a good opportunity to learn about the host country and its culture.

Several universities in the US, UK Australia and other countries have provisions for students to take up a job and earn while they learn there.

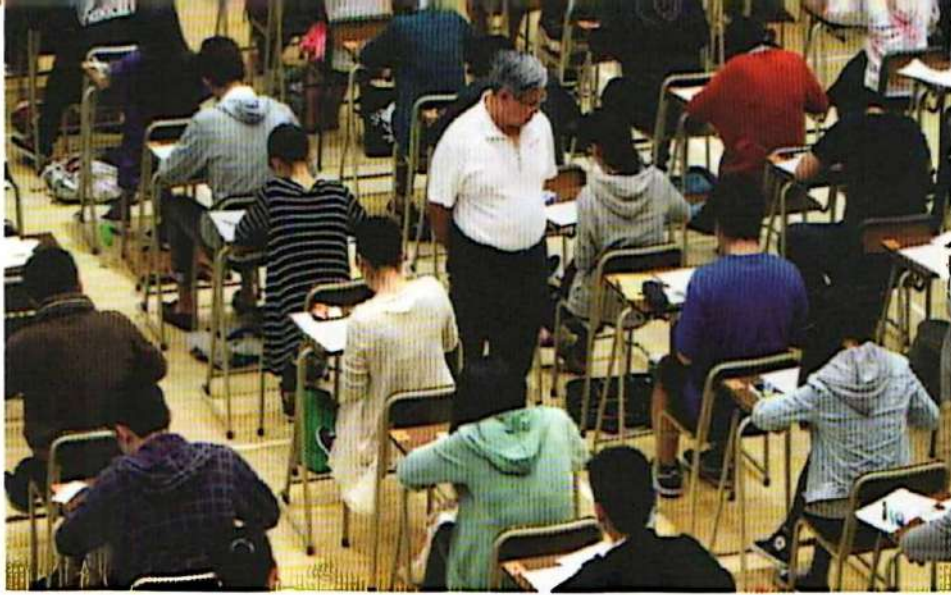
Some universities give scholarships to deserving students and partly fund their study. Banks in India give educational loans for studying abroad. Students must keep abreast of the financial assistance they would get in the country of study and make use of this opportunity to complete their higher studies abroad.

The basic aim of a good education is to bag a good job. Several colleges have placement cells and the students must take it seriously and get a job through the school.

## Competitive Examinations after Std XII

### Joint Entrance Examination (JEE)

The Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) is the passport to securing a seat in one of the more popular engineering institutes. The JEE ( Main ) is handled by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), and is conducted for entry to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIIT) and other Central Government Funded technical institutes and institutions funded by participating State Governments and



among others.

Paper I of the main Test is the qualifying round for the JEE (advanced), which paves the way for entry to the IITs. Candidates must be among the top 1,50,000 test takers from all categories, in the paper, to be eligible to appear for JEE (advanced).

Paper II of the Main Test is meant for admission to B Arch and B Planning programmes.

Moreover to enroll at the IITs and ISM Dhanbad, test takers must fall in the top 20 % of successful candidates of the board exams in

the respective category.

The JEE Main papers I and II were held on April 6 2014, (offline) and online Paper I (for BE and B Tech only ) on April 9, 11, 12 and 13. The JEE (advanced) will be held on May 25,2014.

**All India Pre Medical/ Pre-Dental entrance Test (AIPMT)**

All India Pre - Medical/ Pre-Dental entrance Test (AIPMT) is conducted to fill 15 % merit seats in various medical and dental institutes across the country. The Union Health Ministry's Directorate

General of Health Services handles counselling for test takers qualifyin. for the available positions while respective authorities do the same the participating institutes of the states and universities. This year th AIPMT exam will be held on May 4.

**Common Law Admission Test (CLAT)**

The Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) is for entry to the undergraduate programmes at 14 national law universities. The examination date this year is on May 11.

**Scholastic assessment Test (SAT)**

Scholastic assessment Test (SAT) is meant to judge the academic readiness for undergraduate studies in the US. SAT (covering reading, writing and mathematics), and SAT subject tests are administered by th US based College Board. College Board has sufficient study material, free as well as paid, and the Delhi and Mumbai centres of USIEF holds preliminary Sat (PSAT) to familiarize aspirants and allow them to practise the (general) SAT. Interested students can take the tests in Std IX or Std X before appearing for the final SAT in Std XI. The tests are he several times a year. ■

**അമേരിക്കൻ പ്രകൃതിയുടെ തിരുമുദ്ര**  
**ബെൻകോ**  
**വെളിച്ചെണ്ണ**

**മിതമായ തിരക്കിൽ ശുദ്ധമായ വെളിച്ചെണ്ണ!!**

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# Spice of Life



Gerard Joseph

**T**he most popular seasoning seen on dinner tables along with salt the world over, a real condiment to spice up any bland food or even disguise food gone old: black pepper. The cause of many major causes, like foreign advents, spice trade etc., and used as currency in the olden times, pepper is often referred to as 'black gold'. It was even offered to the gods and given as handsome rewards in medieval Greece.

Black pepper (*piper nigrum*) has a history as rich and distinct as its flavor. It is grown extensively in Kerala and other southern states.

It is said that yogis who renounced their lives could live on seven black peppercorns a day, taken with warm water. Seemingly impossible - not quite, though. Black pepper has all the five elements of life in a proportionate form and it has the amazing ability to stimulate and recycle the bodily chemicals into available energy. Hence our yogis consider black pepper as the most complete food. Modern research can substantiate this claim.

Black pepper is pure solar energy and a great digestive stimulant that has thermogenic properties; in other words, it boosts metabolism. A study done in 2012 found that piperin, the active ingredient found in black pepper, suppresses fat cell growth, thus helping to maintain a healthy weight. The outer layer of the peppercorn can stimulate the breakdown of fat cells, too. Black pepper is a great antioxidant and has remarkable anti-bacterial effect. It is useful in stimulating underactive thyroid glands (hypothyroidism). Further studies done in November 2013 found that piperin helps to regulate blood pressure and reduce inflammation. This most coveted spice can also play an active role in killing cancer cells and stopping tumour growth. Known as 'marich' in Sanskrit, it is named after the all-giving Sun. In Ayurveda, it is used as a main ingredient in many formulations. The great



Black Pepper

'trikatu', made with powders of black pepper, dry ginger and 'pippali' (piper longum), has a far-reaching cleansing, stimulating and rejuvenating effect in a synergistic manner. Regular usage can enhance the bioavailability of nutrients and increase immunity levels. Black

pepper is also a rich source of manganese, a much-needed mineral to metabolise proteins, and to ensure healthy bones and healing of wounds.

Black pepper can be taken as a tonic first thing in the morning: seven ground peppercorns, mixed with half teaspoon honey in a small saucer with the right ring finger in a clockwise direction (tantrayoga from the Hindu tradition recommends doing this 108 times, chanting 'Vishnu' to further potentiate and energise the tonic). But then, as per one's faith, he or she can call upon the different manifestations of the Almighty in a similar way. This formulation contains a perfect blend of sattvic energy and can be taken regularly or at the first sign of any ailment. It is a great tonic to build immunity in children and for enhancing memory, as well as for attaining vitality and good health. Adding a quarter teaspoon of ghee before mixing will help the married to experience better virility.

An oil extract of black pepper is useful in treating joint pains and for fat-reducing massages. Black pepper is also useful for treating sinus disorders. The daily intake of black pepper should not exceed nine peppercorns. If taken in excess, it can cause heat, anger and dryness of the system. Black pepper can also keep away rats, a non-violent method of thwarting the rodent nuisance. Lastly, as an afterthought, I hope and pray that these few words can bring about the realization that black pepper is not just a fiery ingredient in garam masala used to add flavour.

*The author is the founder of kalpavriksh, and is an Ayurveda and Panchakarma consultant and a freelance writer on health, nutrition and Ayurveda.*



A. S. Madhavan felicitating K. Sankaranarayanan, Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra



Pujya Swami Sukhabodhananda being felicitated by A. S. Madhavan and A.V. Ravikumar



Mrs. Geeta Madhavan entertaining the crowd



Performance by A. V. Ravikumar and daughter Ashwathy

# Flyjac Log

A Logistics Convention on Innovation and Challenges was hosted by Flyjac Logistics Pvt. Ltd. on April 5, 2014 at Hotel Leela. Flyjac Logistics, the leading international Integrated Logistic Service Provider is 100% owned by Hitachi Transport System Ltd, Japan. Prominent Speakers from Corporate companies like Reliance Industries Ltd., Larsen & Toubro, Philips India, Mahindra & Mahindra and Crompton Greaves addressed the convention. Managing Directors of different Freight Forwarding companies and their agents from 35 countries including USA, Europe, Middle East, Far East and China participated.

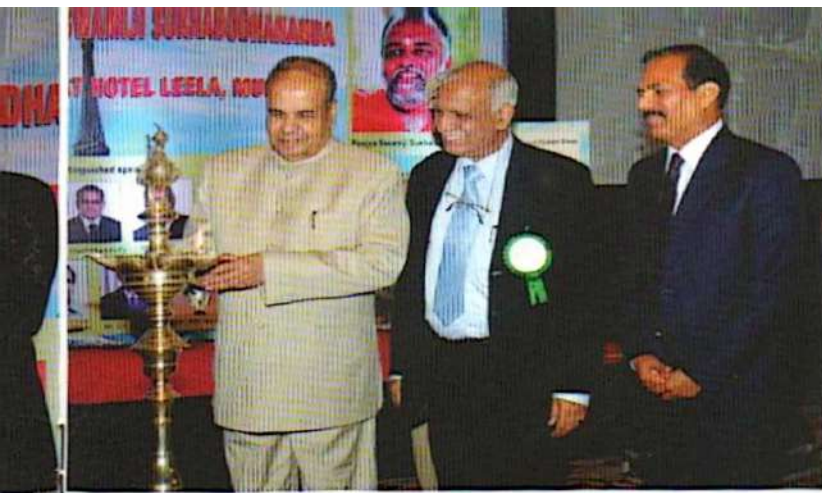
The speakers brought out an eclectic view on the innovations and emerging trends in logistics. Takashi Jinguji, Shunichi Oinuma, Tetsuya Machida and Tetsuro Shiomi, all members of the Board of Directors of Flyjac Logistics Pvt Ltd from Japan were also present on the occasion. Hitachi Ltd., the 100 year old Japanese company is a Social Innovation enterprise which has held its first board meeting outside Japan in New Delhi recently.

Flyjac also has a social v philosophy and is committed t free education, healthcare and s for 300 children under the ban Warrier Foundation. The comp also organizing lot of social projec eye check up camps, computer lit blood donation drive, ple donation of eyes after death vocational training etc.

Shri K Sankaranarayanan, Go of Maharashtra inaugurated c o n v e n t i o n . S w Sukhabodhananda, Management and Founder Chairman, Prasanna gave a discourse on the topic titl 'the Change'. The Conve commenced with Vedic chanting inmates of Balamandiram, orphanage run by Warrier Founda

The Convention also witness elevation of A V Ravikumar, c JMD and CEO of Flyjac Logistics Managing Director of the compan Madhavan, the present MD, als continue in Flyjac as Chai Emeritus. A variety entertain programme was presented and c followed.





K. Sankaranarayanan inaugurating the convention by lighting the lamp. A. S. Madhavan and A.V. Ravikumar also seen



K. Sankaranarayanan addressing the audience

# istics Convention



Takashi Jinguji



Dr. Shashidharankutty



B. Narayan



Luigi Villa



Jacques Van Den Berg



Marc Freter



Markus Keller



G. Kannan



S. K. Krishnan



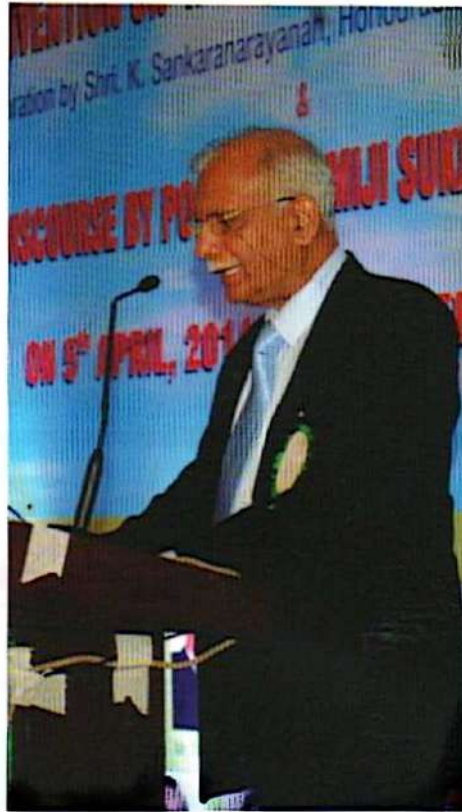
Vish Narayan



## A S Madhavan A Brief Life Sketch

Madhavan came to Mumbai in 1970 as resident representative of Gorden Woodroffe, a British MNC and subsequently established Indian operations of a large Swiss company Panalpina. In 1990, he co-founded Flyjac with Lalit Jobanputra with a social commitment. Warriar Foundation and Jobanputra Charitable Trust were thus born. Flyjac began as import cargo consolidation wing of their combined activities but became independent combining and consolidating import, warehousing and logistic services.

Madhavan's Warriar Foundation runs an orphanage at Panvel and Tirunavaya (Tavanur) with about 200 students from across country and they are well looked after by the Foundation. Besides routine school education, they are also taught Vedas and are prepared to appear for an examination in the subject conducted by Ujjain University at Pune. It also reaches out to the



A S Madhavan

underprivileged needy people and help them to lead a more meaningful

life. It periodically organises blood donation drives, eye donation camps, provides spectacles to students etc. The Foundation aims to increase the strength of the inmates to 1000 by end of this year.

Madhavan joined Janakalyan Sevashram, another philanthropic project started by like-minded friends that conducts an Old Age Home that needs about Rs.5 lakh month to look after the poor old citizens. Since the public donations are meagre, Madhavan and a few of his friends raise necessary funds themselves to meet this expenditure.

Madhavan heads a closely knit family with Dr Geetha, a professor with SIES College, daughter Mrs Divya Prashant and son Dhruv a management graduate from SIES College.

Madhavan established several other companies such as Webyana Technologies Pvt Ltd, Imagna Analytics Solutions, JWR logistics Pvt Ltd, JWR Refrigeration Pvt Ltd etc. He is also closely associated with Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and Giant International.

## Bothayanam by Yugandhara

■ Bombay Keraleeya Samaj, Matunga conducted 'Bothayanam' an audio visual programme of dance depictions and light music based on poems by Maharshi Mahakavi Prof. Krishnakumar on April 11 at Mysore Association Hall, Matunga for their members and families. The event was conceptualized and presented by 'Yugandhara' music and stagecraft, Goregaon.



Standing from left Nandakumar (Yugandhara), Vijaykumar Nair, Devadas G Nair, Premarajan Nambiar & Jayaram, committee members of Keraleeya Samaj



## KERALA BECKONS

The urban planning of Kochi's waterfront, the city's own Marine Drive, has got more exclusive and become the largest beneficiary of several newly approved infra projects in Kochi. It includes Tata Realty & Infrastructure Ltd (TRIL) that has entered the real estate market in Kochi.

# Luxury Living by the Sea

**K**ochi's Marine Drive is a beautiful 1.5 km stretch from Subhash Chandra Bose Park in the south to Goshree Bridge to Bolghatty Island in the north. Malls, restaurants, offices and luxury apartment complexes line one side while the sea washes the otherside.

Very few are blessed to have a house by the sea. Environmentalists may raise slogans in favour of ecological protection, but realty businessmen including stakeholders of malls, luxury homes, restaurants are interested in developing this walkway by the waterfront. NRIs visit the site exhibitions that are held regularly and ultra premium luxury units are offered here. In January this year an international Aqua Show was organised at Marine Drive. The Greater Cochin Development Authority (GCDA) that sees Marine Drive with great tourism potential may be at loggerheads with Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority (KCZMA), but developers are keen to raise Kochi's Marine Drive to global standards. Several projects along the waterfront are on the anvil. The Rs 80 crore Tunnel Marine Aquarium and Entertainment Park spanning 1.3 acres of GCDA land will be a seven storeyed complex like the Tunnel Aquarium in Singapore and Malaysia. The complex will have underwater restaurant, marine aquarium etc as well as skywalk depicting the cultural heritage of the state.

A new coastal road connecting

Vallarpadam Container Terminal Road with Pachalam Road, via Vadathula will benefit the residents who live at Marine Drive as well. Another project is the proposed Kochi Fast Ferry Service connecting both ends of the Marine Drive Walkway through water. Kochi District's Tourism Promotion Council wants to maximize the tourist attractions along the route. The



Upcoming project of Tata Titvam at Marine Drive, Kochi

Mangalavanam Bird Sanctuary is an ecologically sensitive and beautiful area by the sea side. Basically a dense mangrove, it is home to a large number of migratory birds as well.

The urban planning of Kochi's waterfront, the city's own Marine Drive, has got more exclusive and become the largest beneficiary of several newly approved infra projects in Kochi. It includes Tata Realty & Infrastructure Ltd (TRIL) that has entered the real estate market in Kerala.

Titvam by TRIL at Kochi, is unique with a larger-than-life design and space at one of the costliest areas in Kerala.

By entering the realty business in this Southern seafront, Titvam attains a global status.

TRIL has forged with some of the finest architects and contractors in the world for designing and executing the project. With the timeless Arabian Sea on one side and CBD (Central Business District) at MG Road within a distance of 1 km, a dwelling place at the elite Marine Drive is every Pravasi Malayalee's dream. And the sky is the limit when buyers put their money to live in a place by the sea.

Titvam promises an ultra premium realty project at a fast and progressing pace, facilitating homebuyers to own a dream home. While night draws on, the mega property projects on this stretch go in full throttle, with the sounds of cranes and concrete mixers. This activity is a boon for the discerning buyer.

Titvam stands for the confluence of earth water and air and buildings have cross ventilated rooms designed by Woods Bagot, a global design studio of Australian origin that has worked on Burj Dubai residences, Marina Resort in France etc. The landscape designs include swimming pool, elevated central podium and spectacular tropical landscapes.

The construction is by Leighton Welspun, part of Leighton Holdings Group a leading corporation of Australia in constructions, mining and project development and is designed to be a green building that will go for Indian Green Building Council certification. ■



Jyotsna Nair

# MULTI TALENTED STAR

Jyotsna Nair , a third year B A Philosophy student studying at SIES College of Arts and Science in Sion is a multifaceted personality.

**A**s a dancer, Jyotsna Nair has completed her BA in Bharatanatyam and is currently learning Kathakali and Mohiniattam under Kalamandalam Gopalakrishnan, Professor at Nalanda Mahavidyalaya, Mumbai.

Jyotsna has participated in several dance festivals like Shivali





festival, Natyanjali festival in Mumbai. At The Mahakeraleeyam Fest 2011 she was first runner - up in Mohiniattam and won first prize in poetry recital at the same Fest. At the Mumbai University Youth Fest 2012, she was the second runner- up at the classical solo dance competition (Mohiniattam) and won the first prize for solo dance in Visions, the annual fest of SIES College.

### Singer

Jyotsna has also won first prize for singing in Malayalam in

her college and first prize for group singing at zonal level during Mumbai University Youth Festival 2012.

### Social service

Since 2012 she is the Secretary of the SIES College Malayalam Association and is a very active member of the College's NSS Unit and participates in many of the college's social work activities. She also does charity work for orphanages at Ulhas Nagar, Ambernath and Badlapur. She attended Upanishad camp at Calicut and teaches Bhagavad Gita chanting to children at Kalyan.

### Actor

Jyotsna has acted double role in a Malayalam drama 'Pathajaleeyam' during the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi's Drama Competition for Pravasi Malayalis and is currently acting in double role in yet another play, 'Kurooramma' of Mumbai's Sarathy Theatres.

She participated in a Raj TV reality show 'Kadhanayaki' and came in the top fifth position. She is currently doing a Tamil film which will be released shortly.

Young and talented Jyotsna is the daughter of Gokuldas K Nair and Usha G Nair and lives at Kalyan.



Tamil Pesum



## Nanma Charitable Foundation



Nanma Charitable Foundation's First Anniversary was celebrated on 13th April 2014 at Dombivli Gymkhana Ground, Dombivli. Film artist Sudha Chandran inaugurated the function. Eknath Shinde MLA was the chief guest. Roy John Mathew, Rahul Godse, Gurug Pasha and Sunilraj, General Secretary of Nanma, spoke on the occasion. Film Artiste Geeta Poduval was the anchor for the event.

## Thiruvathirakkali by men

■ Till now womenfolk dominated the Thiruvathirakkali and now the men folk sent a strong message to the women that it could not be so in future. Though Thiruvathirakkali and Mohiniattam are reigned by women, it was done to suit the taste of men.

Now a group of men presented Thiruvathirakkali not even dressing like women but their movements were something that women would be jealous of. It happened in Dombivli during the annual event of FOMA.

Chandran Achari trained a group of young men Chandran, Sumesh, Babu, Suresh, Anil Raman, Hari, Rajesh Pola and Dhanaraj in Thiruvathirakkali and they performed like highly talented young women.

These young men proved beyond doubt that they too can master this feminine dance form if they apply their mind to it.

Makeup man Vennoor Jose did a commendable job to make it a memorable event. All participants wore traditional Kasavu Sari as



Men performing Thiruvathirakkali

women normally wear on special occasions. The organisers had to struggle to control the crowd that thronged to the green room to have a look at these Sairandhris. Hundreds of mobile phones with built in camera stored the photographs of these new beauties.

This programme was a part of an event organised by Kairali TV for their Aamchi Mumbai programme,

Chiriyute Thaalukal (The leaves of laughter), a dance, music and comedy event.

It was followed by a mimicry performance presented by J P Thakazhy, Pramod Panicker and Ashish Abraham. Mohanlal, Oomme Chandy, Mala Aravindan and many other characters appeared on the stage through these artistes.



FOMA felicitated TV presenter and film director P T Kunhimohammed with Pravasi Bandhu Award during its fifth anniversary. Gopi Nair, N K Bhupesh Babu, P R Krishnan, K D Chandran, Wilson Dombivli and Shrikant Nair are also seen.

## Nattarangu Kalavikas Mandal

■ Nattarangu Kalavikas Mandal is celebrating its first anniversary on Sunday, May 25 at 5.30 pm at Sri Siddhi Hall of Kharghar Sector 2 with pomp and show. Many celebrities of the art and cultural fields are participating. Well known social and cultural activist and writer K S Menon, P V Vijaykumar of KERALA IN MUMBAI, Preman Illathu, V V Achuthan, Nanappan Manjapra, Rajendran Padiyoor, Madhusoodanan Achari and Venugopal Menon will be felicitated on that occasion. This will be followed by a play by children, titled 'Pravukalute Parathanageetham' (The hymn of doves). The function is open to all.

## Vishu Sandhya of Nerul Nair Seva Samaj

■ Nerul Nair Seva Samaj celebrated vishu sandhya on Sunday, April 20th at Sri Ayyappa Seva Samithi Temple Complex, Nerul (E). Festivals, when celebrated with all the family members, renders it a different flavour altogether and strengthens the bonding among the people. For a pravasi Malayali his friends are his family and Samajam office becomes his Tharavad. With this perception NNSS organized Vishu Sandhya 2014 for its members. Samajam President Madhavan Nair lit the lamp which was followed by a variety of cultural programmes. After the colourful evening all the members were served a sumptuous dinner with chakkapayasam a specialty of Vishu. NNSS, only 7 years old, works with the motto of "Realise the different touch; rekindle the inner spirit." It had organized a seminar on Stress Management for its members in October and a Kids Camp in December. More programs are in the anvil for the benefit of the society as a whole and for its members in particular.



Thane Ayyappa Pooja Samiti, Kisan Nagar organised Prathistha Pooja on completion of one year of the *pranaprathista* of Lord Ayyappa. On this occasion, Pooja Samiti released a souvenir. Thantri Brahmasree Parapoor K P Narayanan Namboodiripad presented one copy to Sarojini K Nair, mother of Jayant K Nair, Shivsena south cell Secretary.



Thara Varma receiving "Nava Durga" award from Anand Charitable Trust Thane

# Sree Narayana Mandira Samiti, Mumbai

## Golden Jubilee Celebrations Grand Finale

20.04.2014



## SNMS Golden Jubilee Finale

■ The year long Silver Jubilee celebrations of Sree Narayana Mandira Samiti, Chembur concluded. The valedictory celebrations were held from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at S N Complex, Chembur on 20th April. The Principal Advisor T K A Nair was the Chief Guest. The programmes started with the felicitations to Dr K K Damodaran who served the Samiti for the last 50 years and Architect B H Wadwa by the Chief Guest. He also released a detective story titled Black Beard's Treasure written by Romacks Rajeev, a student of Std IX.

In his address TKA Nair remarked that the greatest humanist the world had ever seen was Sree Narayana Guru and he was also in the forefront of the spiritual gurus of the world. His 'one world doctrine' is a panacea that could be used to curb the ill effects of the struggles against the religio-caste ridden apartheid, he said. Well known cine actors Manoj K Jayan, Jagadeesh and P K Peethambaran Master also attended the event. A souvenir highlighting the activities of the Samiti was also released on the



Principal Advisor TKA Nair, Manoj K Jayan, Jagadeesh lighting the lamb during the event. Samiti office bearers also seen.

occasion. Thriprayar Kali Mandal and Kannur Tavam Gramavedi presented Kathakali and folk songs respectively. A documentary depicting the 50 years of work carried out by the Samiti was also screened.

The year long programme was filled with competitions in arts and sports fields, counselling, national seminars, personality development programmes, seminar on the

teachings of Chattampi Swamikal, women oriented seminars etc. President of the Samiti N Sasidharan, Chairman M I Damodaran, General Secretary N S Salim Kumar and Ass Secretary O K Prasad addressed the audience consisting of more than 1000 individuals.

The entire programme was co-ordinated and managed by a team under T K Mohan and N Suresh Kumar.



# HIRWA holds Medical Camp

■ HIRWA works towards establishing a welfare society in this metropolis. As a part of its various programmes in the field of health, along with NWS, it organised a medical camp to raise awareness about the detection and prevention of arthritis at Nair House, Mulund (West). This project, conducted with the support of Nair Welfare Society, Mulund was aimed to raise awareness on the disease.

Arthritis is an orthopaedic condition, which, if ignored in its early stages, can become a debilitating condition that affects movements in one's daily life. Dr Tejas Upasini, consulting orthopaedic surgeon, led the camp at Mulund along with the assistance of five technicians. The camp was opened with a presentation by Dr Upasini on Osteoporosis and other



NWS President Balachandran Menon addressing the gathering. Dr Tejas Upasini and Prakash Padikkal also in the picture.



Medical Camp in progress



orthopaedic conditions that can adversely alter a person's movements and lifestyle. About 100 people attended the camp. Johnson & Johnson provided logistical support for the camp.

Dr Upasini identified different ways of preventing such conditions through diet, exercise and calcium intake. He also spoke about the ways in which those who have arthritis and related orthopaedic conditions could control these disorders, in addition to potential recourse to the relief offered by latest developments in computer-controlled orthopaedic surgery. Equipped with specialised instruments for checking bone density, Dr Upasini and his support staff interacted with all the participants.

In his welcome speech, Balachandran Menon, President, NWS, announced the NWS's intention to hold similar medical camps in the future, not only for its members but also for the general public.

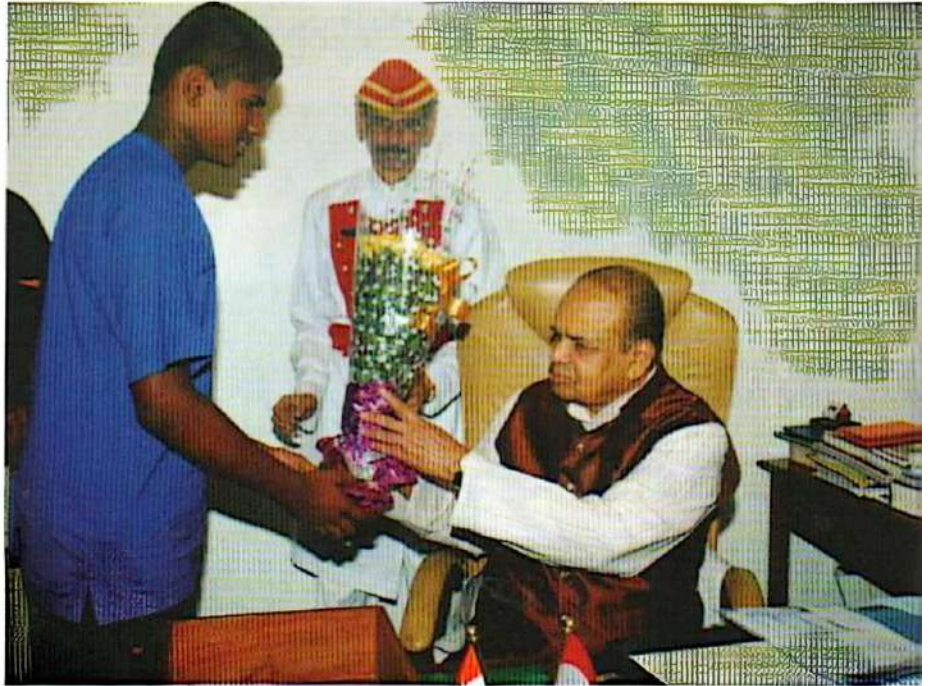
In his address, Prakash Padikkal, President of HIRWA, stated that HIRWA has been for the last 15 years an active promoter for better civic amenities, and for improvement in health and education facilities for the underprivileged.

## Governor felicitates National Shot Put Champion

■ Current shot put national champion Abhijith Nair in the under -16 category was invited and felicitated by Governor of Maharashtra at Raj Bhavan. He won Gold Medal in the national School Championship which was held at Ranchi, Jharkhand from 7th to 12th January 2014.

Up till now, Abhijith Nair has won sixteen medals including 4 National Medals and 4 State Medals. He is student of Vidya Vikasini High School, Vasai Road studying in Std.8th.

He has been felicitated by FAIMA (Federation of All Indian Marunadan Malayali Association), Vasai Citizen Forum, Bassein Kerala Samajam, Kerala Samajam Vasai (E) and his school. He has also been felicitated by local member of Assembly Vivek



Abhijith Nair with the Governor of Maharashtra K Sankaranarayanan

Pandit, President of Bahujan Vikas Aghadi, Hitendra Thakur, Mayor of Vasai-Virar Municipal Corporation

Narayan Mankar, BJP leader of The District Shekhar Dhuri and Shiv E Thane District leader Vinayak Nik

## Vasai Tamil Sangam Celebrations



CA M Xavier Rajan, General Secretary Maharashtra Tamilian Federation, dancer Lata Surendra, M G Martin President Vasai Tamil Sangam and Dr Cecilia Carvalho, Principal, St Gonsalo Garcia College Vasai at the event. Photo Credit: Madhusudhan S Menon

■ Vasai Tamil Sangam on celebrating 28 years of service, sought to felicitate personalities from various walks of life who had made their time and space sacred

and meaningful in serving to enrich the green belt! The programme concluded with Bharatanatyam by disciples of Lata Surendra.

## Global Award for Poetry

■ Noted Mumbai based poet Thodupuzha Shankar received the Global Award for poetry instituted by The Malayali Association of America



Thodupuzha Sha

Maryland. The award was presented at Washington D C on March 29 during their annual function. In his absence, another awardee Smt Saroja Varghese of New York

received the award on behalf. Sankar has published few books poems and some of them are



Kaviyum Vasanthavum, Ammayum Njanum, Silayum Moorthiyum etc. Besides his poems, articles and travelogues are appearing in various magazines of Kerala and Mumbai.

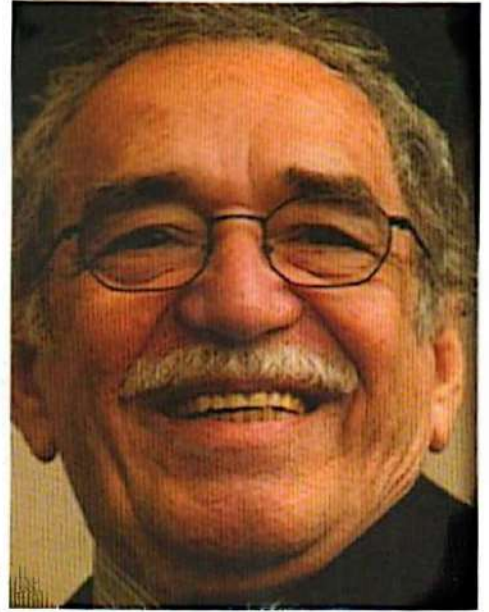
# Seminar on Gabriel Garcia Marquez

■ Vichara Vedi, Powai will be organizing a Seminar in Malayalam and English titled Gabriel García Márquez' Literary World (Márquezinte Sahityalokam). The Seminar will be held on Sunday, the 11th of May 2014 from 4.00 p.m to 6.00 p.m.at the Powai English High School, Powai.

Gabriel García Márquez (March 6, 1927- April 17 2014) was a Columbian novelist, short-story writer, screenwriter and journalist. He was affectionately known as Gabo throughout Latin America. He is considered one of the most significant authors of the 20th century. He was the recipient of the

Neustadt International Prize for Literature in 1972 and the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1982. Started as a journalist, García Márquez wrote many acclaimed non-fiction works and short stories, but he is best known for his novels, 'One Hundred years of Solitude', 'The Autumn of the Patriarch' and 'Love in the Time of Cholera'. His works have achieved significant critical acclaim notably for popularizing magical realism, a literary style which uses magical elements and events in ordinary and realistic situations.

Dr. T.R. Raghavan will be the keynote speaker in Malayalam and Shri. P.N. Vikraman will be the



keynote speaker in English. They will speak on the Literary contribution of Gabriel García Márquez.

A.K.V.Namboothiry will speak on 'Love in the Time of Cholera' (Kolara kalathe premam). C.P. Krishnakumar will speak on 'One Hundred years of Solitude' (Ekanthathyude 100 Varshangal). P.S. Sumesh will speak on Master of Magical Realism (Magical realisathinte Thampuram). Dr. C.M.Sankarankutty will speak on Márquez-Emperor of Letters (Márquez- Aksharangalude Chakravarti). Manasi will evaluate the Seminar. O.B. Sridevi will be the Convenor for the Seminar. For details and registration, contact: V.N.Gopalakrishnan, General Convenor (9819363533) or email: telegulf@gmail.com.



Inauguration of 12th Annual Day celebrations of Pratheeksha Trust Vasai by Goa Dy Chief Minister Francis D' Souza, Vivek Pandit MLA, Vinayak Nikkam Opposition Leader, VVMC and Uthamkumar.

## Guru Vikraman Pillai felicitated

■ Tru Indian Information and Guidance Society Dombivli felicitated Guru Udyogamandal Vikraman Pillai, senior Kathakali and Mohiniattam artiste during International Dance day celebrations on April 29. Suma Mukundan, Anil Poduval, Ambika Warasiar, P V Vasudevan, Uma S Nair, Baby R Nair, Cee Gee Chandrasekharan and Guru Vikraman Pillai's students felicitated him during the ceremony.



# Nrithya Shreshta Title to Swetha Warri

■ Nrithyathi Academy Chattisgarh founded by dancer Ratheesh Babu in association with Steel Authority of India and Ramakrishna Care Hospital both in Bhilai organised all India classical dance competition from April 10 to April 13 at Bhilai. Young Swetha Warri of Mumbai bagged the 'Nrithya Shreshta' Award at the competition.

Swetha Warri receiving the 'Nrithya Shreshta' award



# Writer Unnikrishnan Puthoor Passed Away

**R**enowned litterateur Unnikrishnan Puthoor (81) breathed his last owing to age-related ailments at a private hospital on April 2 evening. Born to Kallath Chulliparambil Sankunni Nair and Puthur Janaki Amma at Engandiyoor in Thrissur district in 1933, Unnikrishnan completed his education from Chavakkad Board School and Palakkad Government Victoria College. While studying in the college, he also worked as a correspondent of a news paper. After graduating, he joined Guruvayur Devaswom as a clerk and retired as head of the establishment wing of the Devaswom library. He was active in politics and was also a trade union leader. He also donned a number of roles as Guruvayoor Devaswom Governing council member, Kerala Sahitya Akademi general council member and President of Sahitya Pravarthaka Sahakarana Sangham. He also served as member of the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi. He was instrumental in starting the Devaswom magazine Bhaktapriya. Unnikrishnan has penned around 700 stories and has won accolades including the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award, G Memorial



Award, and Padma Prabha Award. He is survived by wife Thankamani Amma and sons Shaju and Biju. Unnikrishnan Puthur belongs to writers of modern era with vivid taste in selecting the topics. His works include Jalasamadhi, Dharmachakram, Gajarajan Guruvayur Kesavan, Puthurinte Kathakal, Thallaviral, Akashavani, Kuttasammatam (confession), Atnaviboothi, Aanappaka,

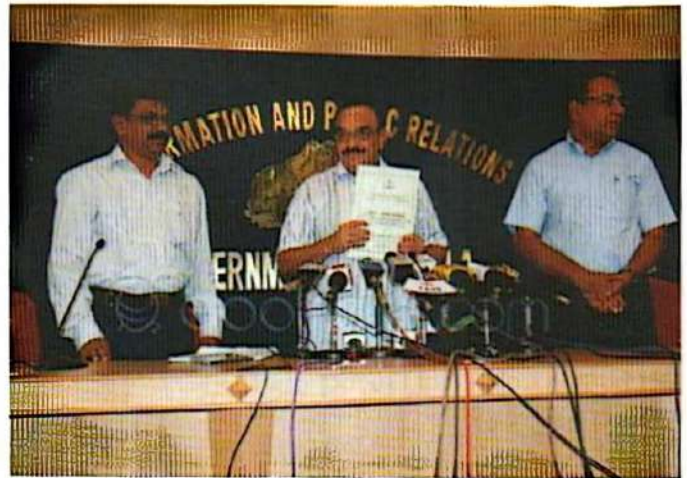
Amruthamadhanam, Karayunna Kalpadukal, Nashtapetta Ponnanam, Kamsan, Dylan Thomasinte Ganam, Sundari Cheramma, and Kalpakapoomazha (collection of poems).

His novels and scores of short stories narrated the tales of ordinary men and women bound to the famous Guruvayur temple. It was his novels like Balikkallu and Anappaka that brought to light the plight of men and women destined to eke out a living by doing menial chores for the rich temples, as mahouts and charwomen. Nazhikamani records the rituals and life around Guruvayur temple, where he worked for 32 years. Balikkallu too emerged from this experience. Aattukattil documents the growth and break-up of the Nair tharavad (ancestral house) in the feudal era. Panchara Mavu Veenu, Bhagam, Ozhivudinam (Holiday), Gopuravelicham, Eeraanmundum Nananja Kannukalum (Wet cloth and wet eyes), Nakshatrakunju (Little star), Pavakkalyanam (Doll's marriage), and Kadinjool Prasanam too are set in the matrilineal Nair milieu. Puthur wrote about the complexities of life in a simple style.

# SSLC results out, record pass percentage

The results of the SSLC exams for the academic year 2013-14 were announced with 95.47% of candidates clearing the exams. It broke all previous records of students getting A+ in all subjects and schools having 100% result. Minister for Education P K Abdu Rabb announced the results. In 2008, the pass percentage was above 90% and last year it was 94.17%. This year 4,63,684 students appeared and 4,42,678 students became eligible for higher studies. 14,802 students got A+ in all

subjects. This number is 4,729 higher than last year. 34,927 students got A grade in all subjects. There are 934 schools that obtained 100% pass result. Among them, 281 are owned by government while 367 are government



Minister Abdu Rabb announcing the results



Overjoyed students in a Malayalam School

aided and 286 are unaided. This is 73 more than last year. Malapuram district tops in the highest number of students appeared and the highest number of students securing A grade in all subjects. However, the highest success result is from Kannur district; 98.27%. Kaduthuruthi educational district secured 98.68 in this

category. Palakkad has a dismal result of 91.28%. The pass percentage, an all-time record, is 1.3% higher than the last year. The exam officials also created history by declaring the results in three weeks. This year's exams had concluded on March 22. Announcing the results, State Education Minister P K Abdu Rabb said 14,802 students have got A+ in all subjects. Nearly 4.64 lakh students had appeared for the exams this time.

# Govt to bring in new amendments to control student unions

Getting tough on political activities by student unions, Kerala government informed the High Court that it proposes to bring in new amendments to control activities of student unions inside the campus. Putting up flex sign boards and defacement of walls would be prohibited in the campus. If classes are disrupted due to strikes, college authorities could seek police assistance and campus and classrooms would be under CCTV surveillance. The government stated this in response to a contempt petition by a student of Ernakulam Law college, Prakashan, who contended that it had not acted on his previous submission that classes are disrupted due to frequent strikes. The government said 90 per cent of



classrooms would be under CCTV surveillance and 90 per cent attendance will be insisted for every semester. If the college sustains any loss during demonstrations, the

organisers concerned will have to compensate, it was stated. Disciplinary action against the students will be decided by staff council, it said.

# Deaf and mute Saji makes his own aeroplane

**S**aji Thomas has created history by making his own aeroplane. What is unique in this case is that he is deaf and mute. Now several engineering colleges have come forward promising him cash awards and employment. Heera College of Engineering and Technology of Nedumangad, Thiruvanthapuram offered him Rs 1 lakh and it would be handed over to him in May. They have further promised technical assistance in developing his calibre by providing infra structure. Mount Sion College of Engineering and Technology of Kadammanitta has offered him job with a pay packet of Rs.25,000 p.m. They have plans to manufacture his planes also while Saji is waiting to have a patent for his model.



Saji in his own aeroplane

## NAFED faces closure

**T**here are miffed talks in the closed corridors of Ministry of Agriculture that Union government is planning to gradually close down the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED), an apex organisation of marketing cooperatives for agricultural produce, functioning under the Ministry of Agriculture. NAFED now functions as a nodal agency of the Centre. Owing to acute funds crunch, a total of 92 members of the staff have been offered voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) till March 31. In order to ensure fair price for 29 agricultural produces, including copra, the NAFED used to procure the produces at minimum support price. The organisation has been facing funds shortage for the last few years. The Centre offers subsidy for the loss it incurs while procuring the commodities at MSP. As per functionaries of an employees union, the NAFED has not suffered any major loss under this. During 2003-04, the NAFED strayed from its core objectives and entered into joint ventures with some high

level private firms and also export businesses expecting huge profit. The move however proved unsuccessful and the organisation suffered a loss of around Rs 1800 crore. Now, the debt has touched Rs 4,000



crore, including interest. NAFED had suffered the heaviest loss as the business venture it launched with a private quarry lobby on export of iron ore flopped. As it started losing ground, the NAFED board was forced to take measures like resizing staff strength by offering VRS. Accordingly, 92 employees, including senior

managers, were released in the first phase on March 31. As many as 78 employees, who applied for VRS, would be relieved in the months of April - May. The NAFED board also enforced a 10 percent pay cut for all staff from January onwards. Moreover, the annual increment was stopped since January. Around 400 contract employees were relieved two weeks ago and the staff strength cut to 400 from 520. Meanwhile, a project was submitted by the Ministry of Agriculture to the Centre to reorganise NAFED and its functioning. But the Centre has not given its nod so far. Accordingly, the existing employees are also waiting to avail the VRS option. When the copra prices came down in Kerala, the NAFED had provided the farmers much relief by procuring the commodity at minimum support price. A large number of farmers across the country are also beneficiaries of the various schemes implemented by the organisation. Given the impact the closure of NAFED could make in the lives of farmers, the farmers unions have sought the immediate intervention of the Centre in the matter.

# M V Devan bids adieu

Devan will be known in the coming ages, not as a mere painter but as a man with far sightedness built several iconic and lasting cultural institutions and art and journalistic courage

**T**he beloved painter, sculpturer, orator, fearless speaker and writer M V Devan passed away on April 29 at his Aluva residence, 'Choomi.' He was 86.

He is survived by daughters Jameela and Shalini. His wife Sreedevi had passed away earlier.

The body was kept at the Town Hall in Aluva on 30th for the public to pay their last respects. The cremation took place at a simple ceremony, as he had desired, at Ambattu Kavu public cemetery at 5 p.m.

Devan like his mentor M Govindan, obstinately travelled a lonely road. His outspokenness often triggered cultural spats with leading writers, politicians and orators.

Born at Chockli in Kannur, Devan learnt art from masters like D P Roy Chowdhury and K C S Panicker at the Government School of Arts and Crafts in Madras for six years from 1946.

## Illustrations

He joined Mathrubhumi in 1952 and broke new ground in serialised publication of Malayalam fiction in the weekly by rendering remarkable illustrations for the works of literary stalwarts like Vaikom Muhammad Basheer and Uroob.

"Mathrubhumi's then Managing Editor V M Nair wanted a trained artist to do illustrations in the weekly and Devan's sketches set off a movement of sorts, lending a certain credibility to illustrations for literary fiction in Malayalam journals," recalled veteran artist Namboodiri, who had worked with Devan in Mathrubhumi.

He will be remembered for



setting up institutions like the erstwhile Kalapeetom in Ernakulam and the art village Malayala Kalagramam in New Mahe. Devan displayed tremendous skills in organising art camps, rendering literary and thoughtful speeches and in creating art and architecture awareness among Malayalis, says Namboodiri.

In 1961 following a squabble with the editor N V Krishnan Variar, he relinquished the post in Mathrubhumi and returned to Madras to work as art consultant and Malayalam editor of the Southern Languages Book Trust.

Soon, Devan was appointed secretary of the Madras Lalithakala Akademi. Around the same time, he worked in close coordination with visionary administrator M K K Nair in organising the landmark All India Writers' Conference in Aluva.

Persuaded by Nair, he returned

to Kerala to become art consultant for Fact Engineering and Design Organisation (Fedo), FACT, in Udyogamandal, Aluva.

The period saw him make the switch from painting to sculpture; some of his noteworthy public sculptures in stone, cement, and tiles were thus born.

Later in his life, Devan headed the Kerala Lalithakala Akademi and founded an architecture consultancy firm, Perumthachan, to promote Kerala-style architecture. "Though not a trained architect, he pioneered environment-friendly construction of dwelling units in the State well before the iconic architect Laurie Baker drove the idea home," says writer K.N. Shaji.

His fearless nature and courageous convictions often led him into confrontations with writers, politicians and self serving leaders. In spite of earlier cordial and loving relationship with M T Vasudevan Nair, they had a close encounter with each other followed by a court case initiated by M T Vasudevan Nair.

Devan remained a fervent and spirited critic of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, which he thought was extending step-motherly treatment to Kerala-based artists. Writer T Padmanabhan, who shared a deep friendship with Devan for 65 years said that Devan in his prime was by far Kerala's best orator.

Devan also excelled as an editor and writer and a compilation of his essays, titled 'Devaspandanam', went on to bag the prestigious Vayalar Award.

# JANGIRI



## INGREDIENTS

- 1 Black gram dal  
0.200 gms.
- 2 Rice 1 tbsp.
- 3 Sugar 0.500 gms.
- 4 Ghee 0.500 gms.
- 5 Food colour  
(Orange Red) ½ tsp.
- 6 Rose Essence few  
drops



**K. S. Narayanaswamy**  
Mani's Lunch Home  
Matunga, Mumbai-400019  
*Recipes Courtesy*

## PREPARATION

■ Wash and soak the black gram dal and rice together in water for an about 15 minutes. Drain the water and grind well by sprinkling little water to form a thick paste. Add ¼ tsp of food colour, Orange red to the batter.

■ Boil the sugar with water to prepare string consistency in a heavy bottom pan. Add few drops of Rose essence to the sugar syrup. Mix reaming ¼ tsp of food colour to the sugar syrup.

Heat ghee in a shallow pan or a deep plate in low flame. Take a small ball size of batter in a thick cloth with a small round button hole in the middle. Hold the cloth straight over the heating pan in the hand and press slowly, so that the batter comes out through the small round bottom hole of the cloth and drops in to the pan on fire. Make circular motion of your hand as to make one full round in the centre and a half connecting to small coils along the sides above the whole full round. It is really an artistic nature and taste. It requires thorough training and practice. Fry the above on low fire patiently till they turn golden and crisp. Remove from ghee and drop in the hot syrup and allow absorbing the sugar by pressing with a spoon for a few seconds. Take them out of the syrup and place on a tray. Continue the process till the entire batter is over.

# PARTY DRUGS IN INDIA- PART I

As the saying goes, "Cocaine is God's way of telling you you're making too much money." This has been the swansong of the current party circuit in India. We are witness to a generation that drinks to get sloshed drunk and high to get blown.



Dr Sujatha Nair

■ In most families across India every celebration, social do or function calls for popping the cork... Children grow up seeing the revelry of alcohol and more often than not one or both parents getting drunk. Thus alcohol is considered an inevitable and "normal" part of routine beverages consumed like water, tea coffee etc. Where cigarettes used to be the macho thing to do at the threshold of adolescence today it is also Marijuana. A young man I know said, "pot is now legal in certain parts of the world it is not addictive...all my friends use it, it is fun so I enjoy it..." little knowing that it is a stepping stone to an entire bouquet of illicit drugs and very addictive.

Where MDMA / ecstasy was the commonest party drug at a point, today Cocaine lines cut or crack or

heroin are carried in trays and served to guests who would like to indulge at parties along with alcohol.

Other common drugs are LSD, ephedrine, ketamine and methaqualone, Heroin, methadone

## MARIJUANA

Marijuana is a plant indigenous to Asia, and is commonly consumed in three forms:[hemp, hash, charas, cream, Malana cream, Afghan snow, Kashmiri, Kasa, Bombay Black/ pot, grass, dope, Mary Jane, weed, blunt, herb].

Hashish the resin of the plant IS usually reddish brown to black in colour.

Ganja refers to the leaves and stem, and is usually greenish in colour.

Bhanga dark brown or black preparation of marijuana leaves and flowers and other additives such as herbs and spices.

Spliff: Marijuana cigarette

Bong: Water pipe for smoking  
Joint / Bob: Marijuana cigarette made of rolling paper

Ganga-Jamuna: Marijuana-hash combination

## Consumption

Bhang is usually eaten or mixed with a cold drink of milk and dry fruits. Hashish and ganja are crushed and mixed with tobacco. The mixture is rolled in a cigarette and smoked.

Effects:

Bloodshot eyes.

Extreme form of anxiety or fear.

Uncontrollable bouts of laughter.

Lack of clear and orderly thought or behaviour.

Sluggish speech.

Eating binges.

Peculiar herbal smell in hair, clothes, or in the area where the drug was consumed.

Presence of marijuana seeds, smoking devices (chillums and bongs), smoking paper, 'roaches' (rolled-up cardboard to create an

artificial filter).

## Health Risks

Physical- one marijuana cigarette is equivalent to five tobacco cigarettes in terms of damage to the body. brain damage, infertility, and loss of memory.

Psychological- Amotivaitonal syndrome- the will to do something take responsibility, apathy, lethargy set in.

**METHAQUALONE** [Quaaludes] [mandrax, ludes, buttons, press outs, and quas, quacks, soaps,]

-the drug highlighted in the movie The Wolf of Wall Street is originally discovered by an Indian scientist in the 1950s. It was used medically as a substitute for barbiturates. However when one prevents falling sleep after eating it , it leads to a 'epic' high

Methaqualone, can cause serious emotional problems including depression, epilepsy, and delirium. 150-500 mg (not more than a therapeutic dose) can produce a sensual, euphoric state and a relaxed, intimate mood. It is highly addictive, and abrupt withdrawal, if not properly supervised, can cause death. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, Methaqualone is particularly dangerous when consumed with alcohol. Coma and convulsions can result from acute ingestion of 2 gm of Methaqualone and death from 8 gm.

**Effects** acute and chronic:

Reduced heart rate.  
Increased sexual arousal.  
Numbness of the fingers and toes.

Slurred speech.  
Headaches.  
Convulsions.  
Death through cardiac or respiratory arrest. ■

*The next part of this article will delve into other psychoactive drugs that are "in" on the party scene.*

*Nota bene- Einstein said, "Information is not knowledge". Mere information will not help you identify drug abuse in your child/dear one. Consult professionals in the field of treatment of Addiction for assistance in drug abuse identification and intervention.*

*We at Anatta provide the right kind of professional help in this field maintaining the anonymity and confidentiality of the clients.*



Anatta Humaniversity Pvt.Ltd.  
Contact Person:  
Ms. Vandana Hiranandani  
+91 9967334000  
Website- [www.anatta.in](http://www.anatta.in)

# BELATED THOUGHTS

Some in the house,  
Ventured to call me to rise,  
But the warmth under the cover  
Pulled me down beneath it further.

In a wintry night,  
Even with the thickest of clothes,  
Covering me all over,  
It was very cold and shivery.

The windows were closed  
Lest the wind got in, and  
Made me a frozen flesh.  
Once under the blanket  
Fast did sleep come to me.

Early in the morning next,  
Sparrows were chirpy and playful.  
Suns warmth,  
Slowly came from the dark  
To wake up all  
To start the day moving.

Alas! When I got out of it,  
The hands of the clock,  
Had moved pretty far  
To make me hurry for the day's task.

So did late I became,  
To start my day moving.  
As was I in many other occasions  
To be called lazy by the world  
For one more time  
That reverberated in me for years together  
To make me a recluse  
In the years to come.

RAJAN MUNDAYAT  
Matunga

# Manavātti (മനുവാട്ടി) 1970



**Lyrics:** Vayalar Rama Varma      **Music:** G Devarajan  
**Singer:** K J Yesudas              **Ragam:** Kappi

Rohini



Vayalar Rama Varma

സുമംഗലി - നിയോർമ്മിക്കുമോ  
 സ്വപ്നത്തിലെങ്കിലുമീ ഗാനം?  
 ഒരു ഗദ്ഗദമായ് മനസ്സിലലിയും  
 ഒരു പ്രേമകഥയിലെ ദുഃഖഗാനം! (സുമംഗലി..)

പിരിഞ്ഞുപോകും നിനക്കിനിയിക്കഥ  
 മറക്കുവാനേ കഴിയൂ!                      (പിരിഞ്ഞുപോകും)  
 നിറഞ്ഞ മാറിലെ ആദ്യനഖക്ഷതം  
 മറയ്ക്കുവാനേ കഴിയൂ! - കുന്തലാൽ  
 മറയ്ക്കുവാനേ കഴിയൂ!                      (സുമംഗലി..)

കൊഴിഞ്ഞ പീലികൾ പെറുക്കിയെടുക്കും  
 കൂടുകൂട്ടും ഹൃദയം!                      (കൊഴിഞ്ഞ..)  
 വിരിഞ്ഞ പുവിനും വീണ പുവിനും  
 വിരുണൊരുക്കും ഹൃദയം - എപ്പൊഴും  
 വിരുണൊരുക്കും ഹൃദയം.                      (സുമംഗലി..)

Transliteration:

ā = ഓ; c = ച; ē = ങ; ī = ി; ḷ = ള; ṅ = ണ; ṅ = ണ; ō = ഞോ; r̄ = ള; ṣ;  
 rh = റ; ś = ശ; ś = ഷ; ṭ = ത; ṭh = മ; ṭ = ത; ū = ു;



G Devarajan

Sumangalī nīyōrmikkumō  
 Swapnaṭṭilengilumī gānam?  
 Oru gadgadamāy manassilaliyum  
 Oru premakaṭhayile dukkha gānam! (Sumangalī..)  
 Piriññupōkum ninakkiniyikkaṭha  
 Marhakkuvāne kazhiyū                      (Piriññupōkum)  
 Nirhañña mārḥile ādyanakhakshaṭam  
 Marhaykkuvānē kazhiyū kūṇṭalāl  
 Marhaykkuvānē kazhiyū!                      (Sumangalī..)  
 Kozhiñña pīlikāḷ perhukkiyetukkum  
 Kūtukūttum hṛdayam!                      (Kozhiñña..)  
 Viriñña pūvinum vīṇa pūvinum  
 Virunnorukkum hṛdayam! eppoṣhum  
 Virunnorukkum hṛdayam!                      (Sumangalī..)

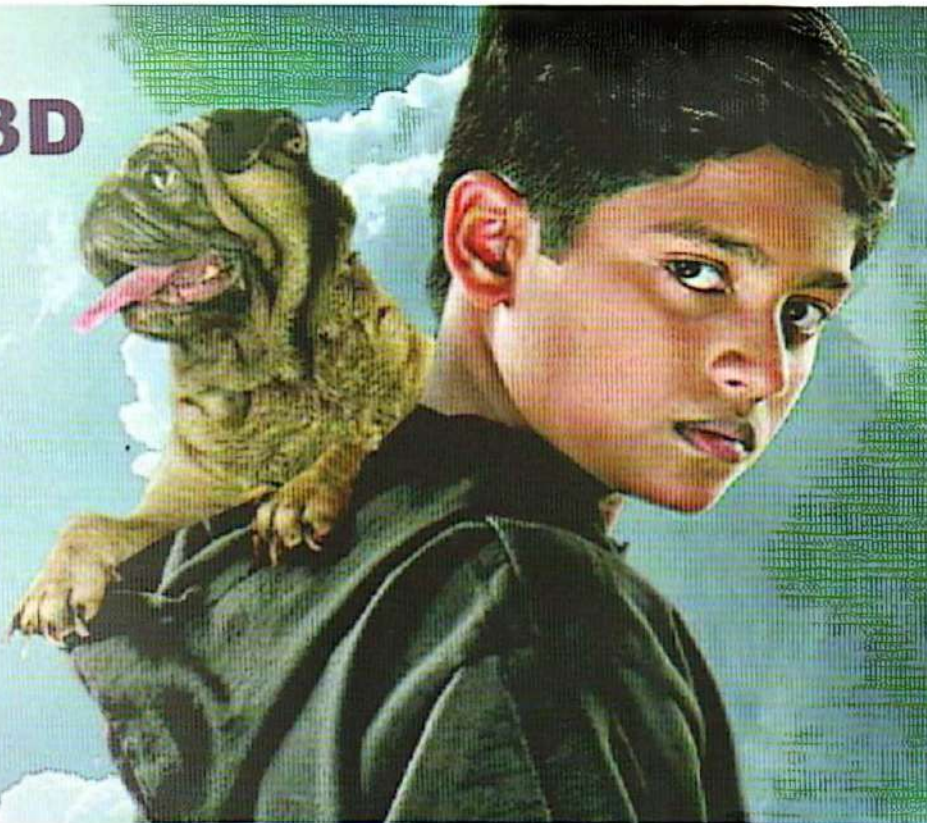


K J Yesudas

Vivahita (Married woman) is adapted from Gumrah, B R Chopra's Hindi film and produced by ALS Productions. It had Sathyan, Prem Nazir and Padmini in stellar roles of the husband, ex-lover and wife respectively. The story, screenplay and dialogues are credited to Thoppil Bhasi and M Krishnan Nair directed it. It had a reasonably successful run. Other actors were Muthaih, Adoor Bhasi, Jayabharathi, Mythili, Sheela and Kaviyoor Ponnamma. Yesudas, Suseela and Madhuri lent their voice for songs. There were 8 songs in all. *Arayannam, Devalokarathavumai, Mayajalaka vathil, Pachamalayil (2), and Vasanthathin makalallo (2)* are the other songs.

# Little Superman 3D

**A**kash Films is busy with the shooting of Little Superman in 3D, written and directed by Vinayan who earlier came with Dracula. It is being produced in Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu and Hindi. Vinayan and V N Babu the producers, intend to spend about Rs.2 crore for the graphics alone and sought the assistance of Hollywood graphics companies who did the work of Avatar and Life of Pi. Mohan Sitara composes music for the lines of Kaithapram. Dialogues are by S Ratheesh. Baby Nayantara, Master Deni are in the lead, supported by Madhu Ranjit, Krishna, Praveena, Muraleemohan, Hansiba, Adinad Sasi and Mohan besides 300 children.



# To Noora with love

**T**his movie is produced by Mohammed Ansar and Babu Narayanan directs it. The story revolves around Mamta Mohandas. Hero is Krish J Sathar, son of Jayabharathi and Sathar, former actors. Kaniha, Nedumudi Venu, Siddiq, Archana Kavi, Ramesh Pisharody and Mamu Koya are also in the movie. C H Mohammed Koya Vadakara wrote the story and B S Anil prepared the screenplay. Mohan Sithara sets tunes to Vayalar Saratchandra Varma's lyrics.



# Vellimoonga

**V**ellimonga (Silver owl) is produced by Bhavana Media Vision of Ullattil Sasidharan and is directed by the cinematographer Jibu Jacob. Biju Menon and Aju Varghese are the main actors. Nikkigal Rani is in the female lead. Siddique, Kalabhavan Shajohn, Tini Tom, Mithula, Lena, Sukanya, Anu Joseph and KPAC Lalitha are in the supporting cast. Screenplay is by Joji Thomas and music section is handled by Rajiv Nair and Biji Bal.

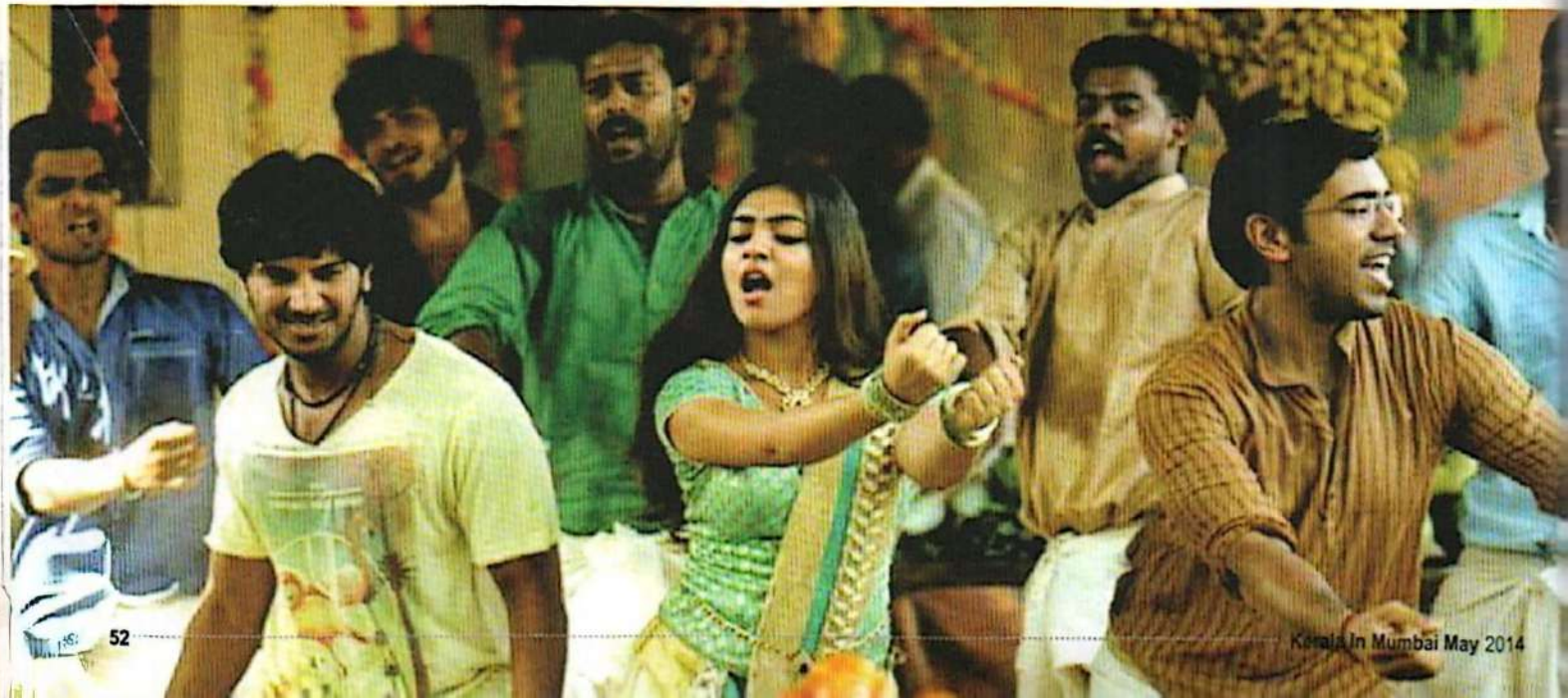
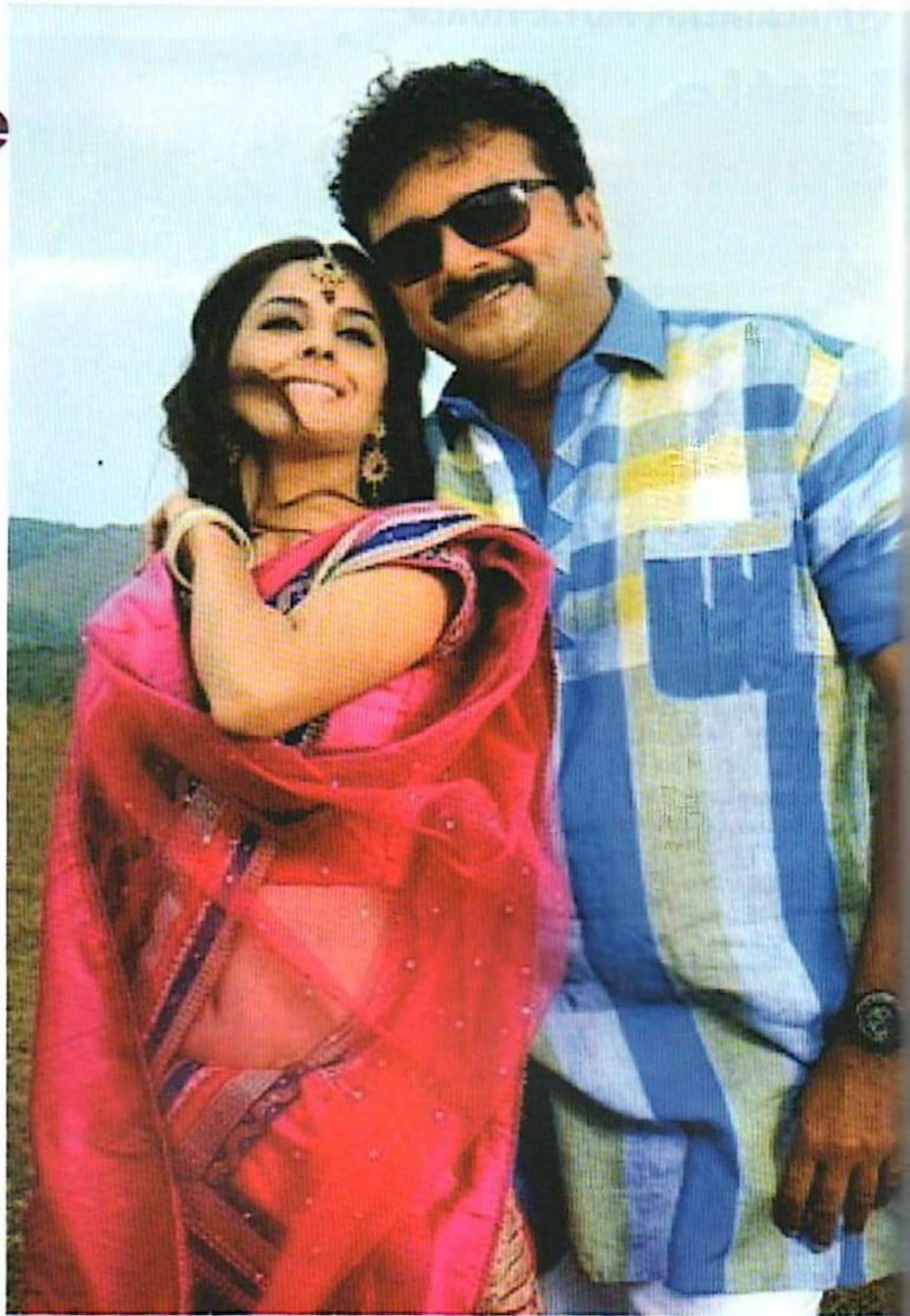


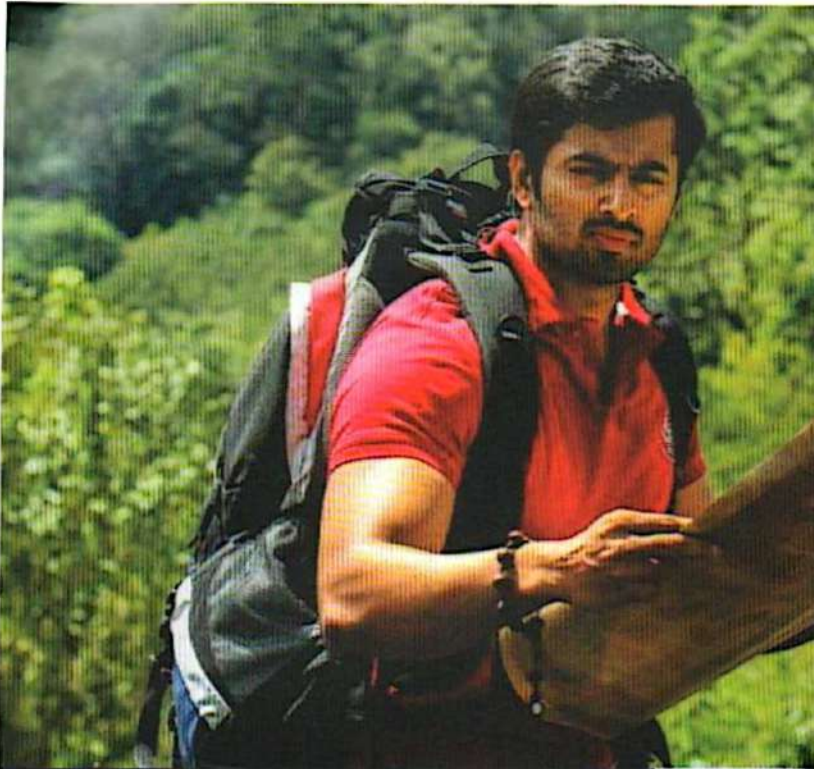
# Ulsaha Committee

**U**lsaha Committee reaches the theatres in the first week of May. In this Akku akbar film, Jayaram, Baburaj, Kalabhavan Shajohn, Suraj Venjaramoodu, Sheela, Isha Talwar, Kochupreman, Vinayaprasad and Arun Ghosh are coming on the screen. Baiju Anthikad writes the screenplay. Engandiyur Chandrasekharan and Rafiq Ahmed penned the songs for which Biji Bal set the music.

# Bangalore Days

**B**angalore Days has three heroes and four heroines. Anjali Menon wrote its screenplay and directs it. The film is almost complete in Bangalore. Anwar Rasheed and Sophia Paul produce this film. Fahad Fazil, Dulkhar Salman, Nivin Pauli, Nazria Nazim, Nitya Menon, Parvati Menon and Isha Talwar are the main actors. Pratap Pothan, Vijayaraghavan, Manian Pilla Raju, Krishna Prasad, Praveena, Vinayaprasad and Kalpana provide able support. Rafiq Ahmed writes the lyrics and Gopi Sundar provides the music.





## The Last Supper

**S** George produces The Last Supper with Unni Mukundan, Anu Mohan and Perlimaneya in the main roles and it is directed by debutant Vinil Vasu. Other actors are Arum Aryan, Spider, and director Marthandan in important roles.

Screenplay is written Shamir Sainu and Deepak Dharaneendran. Music is set by Gopi Sundar. It is thriller in which three young men undertake a journey without any specific plans and how they are tested by fate

## Mizhi Thurakku

**B**ased on Kumaran Asan's epic poem Duravastha (Tragic state), Roshan Thampi produces Mizhi Thurakku (Open the eyes) with K B Ganesh Kumar and Asokan in the lead. They are enacting the roles of Chathan and Pokkan respectively. Dr Santhosh Souparnika writes the screenplay and also directs it. Other actors are Vijayaraghavan, Kochupreman, Reji Thampi, Shruti Lakshmi, Mithuna, Ambika Mohan, Manka Mahesh, Ajith and Vishnu. M Jayachandran provides music for the lyrics of Poovachal Khader and Jayageetha.



## Jalamsam

**A**ctor Jagdeesh makes a comeback as a hero in Jalamsam (Water content) directed by

M P Sukumaran Nair based on his own story and screenplay. The character he is portraying in this film may turn a land mark in his career. Along with him, there are three female powerful female characters portrayed by Manju Pillai, Parvathi Ghosh and Rashmi along with

Indrans, Suraj Venjaramoodu, Aliyar, Remadevi, Krishnapriya, Munshi Dileep, Jayakumar and Kottayam Purushu. For Anwar Ali's lines, Unni provides music.





## Jagathy back on stage after two years

**C**ine actor Jagathy Sreekumar appeared in a public programme after a gap of two years. He shared stage with children suffering from brittle bone disease (Osteogenesis imperfecta), at a gathering organised by a social organisation, Amrita Varshini. Though remained silent throughout the

## Suraj Venjaramoodu best actor

**L**eaving comedy behind, Suraj Venjaramoodu portrayed a nameless character in 'Perarhiyathavar' (Nameless persons) to win the national award along with another actor Rajkumar Rao who acted in 'Shahid.' According to Sayed Mirza, the Jury Chairman, Suraj has performed incredibly well as it was a tough role. Suraj had a role of a sweeper in the film. He has acted nearly 200 films so far. Though he was visible in Rajamanikyam, he was behind the success of Mammooty in that film by training him in Trivandrum slang. Mammooty reciprocated by getting him Thuruppugulam and afterwards he had no time to turn back. Anand Gandhi's debut film 'Ship of Theseus' was named the best feature film while Milkha Singh's biopic 'Bhaag Milkha Bhaag' was declared the best popular film providing wholesome entertainment at the 61<sup>st</sup> National Film Awards. Rajiv Ravl, another Malayali, won the award for the best cinematographer for the film 'Lier's dice' directed by his wife Geetu Mohandas. D Yuvaraj won the award for the best sound recordist of film Swapanam directed by Shaji N Karun while Rajesh Tuchriver, another Malayali, directed the best Telugu film Na Bangaru Talli. Nargis Dutt Award for best feature film on National Integration is given to Balu Mahendra directed Tamil film 'Thalaimuraigal'. An 11-member jury, headed by noted director Saeed Akhtar Mirza announced the awards. The National Film Awards along with Dada Saheb Phalke honour, which will go to lyricist-director Gulzar this year, are likely to be given by President Pranab Mukherjee on May 3. 'Perarhiyathavar,' directed by Dr Biju also won the award for the best film promoting environment. The award for the best Malayalam film went to 'North 24 Katham' directed by Anil Radhakrishna Menon.



event, the actor was seemingly enjoying the one-hour stint with children, shaking hands with them and posing for photographs. Accompanied by his daughter Parvathy, son Rajkumar and grandson Joju, Jagathy was brought in a wheelchair for the event held at Kovalam. The children gave them a hearty welcome by offering flowers. He later inaugurated the programme by lighting the ceremonial lamp. Jagathy, who was seriously injured in an accident at Kozhikode in 2012, was confined to home after getting discharged from the hospital. His relatives, who attended the gathering, said such occasions were a much-needed relief for the actor, which could rejuvenate him. Wishing that the actor could make a speedy comeback to the big screen, the children performed dance and songs before him. Jagathy appreciated their efforts by shaking hands with them and smiling at them. A short film on those suffering from brittle bone disease, 'The Walking Mind' was screened on the occasion. Nearly 65 persons, including music director M Jayachandran and magician Gopinath Muthukad, attended.

# THE ANGEL MESSAGES FOR MAY, 2014

**T**his month the Angels advise you to open your eyes to the truth of situations that you have been ignoring for long. Use your God gifted intuition and clairvoyance to see through a person's or a situation's absolute truth without bias, fear or denial. Please pay attention to your dreams, especially at this time for recurring messages may occur to you as answer to your prayers. Once you have admitted the truth to yourself, steps to amend situations will occur to you on asking for guidance from God and the Angels.

People in creative professions like writing, advertising, etc must stop procrastinating and get down to completing that project which is long delayed. The Angels offer support for whoever calls upon them. Those who have been guided to write a book, article, column, etc can also begin as this is a good time to start. You have been lovingly guided for a reason so please trust and honour this guidance.

The Angels also assert that it is important for you to take back your power and assume your leadership on both, professional and personal levels. You are a powerful being of God and hence perfect in every sense. Focus upon your strengths and the many lessons that you may have learnt in the past to put it to good and productive use. Release your fears and self doubt to God and his Angels and focus on the positive. The Angels are willing to assist, if only you ask!

## Angel Card Reading, Angel Communication and Therapy

It is said that every time God thinks, an ANGEL is born. Each one of us have angels who guide and protect us. The Archangels are chief messengers of God, never born on earth. They stay very close to the earth realm so as to guide us, protect us and help us. Their chief objective is to eliminate all fear from our minds so that we can choose our desired path fearlessly and



positively with absolute faith in God and self. The Archangels immediately rush to the side of those who call upon them for help. Each Archangel represents a particular speciality for which their help can be requested for. They have specific respective halo colours for their identification too. They are extremely loving and supportive as they are the divine creations of God himself.

Then there are Guardian angels who are there with us right from our birth till the time we depart from this physical world. They too are there to guide and protect us at all times. Your guardian angel can be anyone from a deceased ancestor or a loved one to an absolutely new

person who you may have never met. The guardian angels are looked after by the Archangels.

Angel card reading involves posing questions to the angels themselves with the help of Angel Tarot Cards and Angel Guidance Cards, receiving answers for your queries/problems.

Angel communication involves communication with a person's Guardian angels or Archangels to find solutions or answers.

Angel therapy involves healing with the energy of the angels for emotional or health issues. Angel therapy is most useful for emotional issues which stops or blocks us from moving forward.

If you have any questions on your mind for which you have been searching for answers, you may send in your questions to [keralainmumbai@gmail.com](mailto:keralainmumbai@gmail.com) or

to [nambiar.devika9@gmail.com](mailto:nambiar.devika9@gmail.com)

Please note, the following are most essential for an accurate reading:

- Full name of the person who is enquiring
- If asking about another person then his/her full name and relation with you
- If asking about a job in a company then full name of the company and the position you have applied for.

For Angel communication & therapy, you can email on [nambiar.devika9@gmail.com](mailto:nambiar.devika9@gmail.com) for an appointment.

*Devika Nambiar Nair  
Angel Card Reader,  
Angel Communicator & Therapist*

# The Unforced Faith



**Devika Nambiar**

■ We are born free. Free of all religions, beliefs and faith. We are born, a pure drop of love from heaven. As new entrants into this world we know only one emotion love. We respond to

love and love alone. It is the only language, only expression we understand at this time. When we are born we are still connected to God, we can see his beautiful angels and hence play with them in our sleep or with our eyes open staring at a corner and smiling. Life is simple at this time because there is only love that truly exists and nothing else matters.

The complications begin when we crossover, that is, start speaking our mind. That's when all chords with divinity are diminished and all memory of this pure endless selfless love is forgotten. This by the way is also planned by the higher power who sent us here. We are taught to be Hindus, or Muslims, or Christians, or Sikhs, or Jews or belong to any other religious background. We are taught to follow certain ways of worship, mannerisms, prayers, etc. As a society it is very important to belong to like-minded group of people who have similar beliefs, values and opinions. It is important from a point of view of belongingness.

But come to think of it don't we all belong to the same higher values and beliefs irrespective of which religion or faith we belong to, after all? Every religious



scripture teaches us to show love, kindness, tolerance, compassion towards fellow beings - humans and animals alike. We are taught to not pass a judgement on others because that is the sole prerogative of God alone. We are taught to not bring harm or discomfort unto others. We are taught to pray to open our hearts and minds to that one supreme power who sent us here. The broader guidelines are the same everywhere. But there have been instances when religious beliefs have been forced upon people denying them their right to follow a faith of choice. There have also been instances where people's beliefs have been criticized just because others don't understand it.

I personally believe, that God is pure light. The only religion in God's kingdom

is love. His creations, the Archangels, are also pure divine lights. We all pray to God in his many forms and names. But God by any other name is still God. Divinity in any other form is still divinity. Love in any other form is still love. I am willing to go down on my knees and bow my head to any and all power which is God, in any form, in any name, in any religion because the feeling of oneness, the calmness, the security, the assurance, the comfort, the lightness, the feeling of being overwhelmed, the purity, the freedom is the same everywhere I go.

I have been bought up as a Hindu and like I mentioned before I believe and bow down to everything which is divinity. But as a light worker, who works and worships God and his Archangels also, I have been met with criticism disregarding and dismissing my beliefs a lot of times. I have been judged and looked at with unpleasant doubts. But that does not upset me or anger me because each one is free to follow a faith of his or her choice. However, to try and force your beliefs on someone maligning his or her freedom to choose or insulting his or her belief system is not a very divinely approved act I dare say.

You cannot force faith. You cannot make somebody give up his or her faith and belief which they hold most sacred to their hearts and expect them to be one with you, because they won't. Instead learn to respect their values and they in turn will respect yours. Try to give them freedom of devotion and they in turn will try and learn yours. Learning and respecting every religion and faith does not mean giving up or disregarding yours, it only means following that one true religion which prevails in God's kingdom called love. Love for your fellow beings, love for God and his divinity. This is the unforced pure faith.

It is this unforced faith that binds us all together. It is this unforced faith that makes us close our eyes and pray after we have travelled so far to come to God's shrine. It is this unforced faith which makes us all look up to the sky in troubled times asking for strength for there is where our God resides. It is this unforced faith which creates miracles when you need it the most. It is this unforced faith that makes you who you are from within. Let the unforced faith unite and lead us all into the light.

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# Pronunciation and transliteration

-Guruji

In the growth of any language, the primary factors are evolution of correct words, its pronunciation while speaking, reading them with right intonation and now in the times of multiple languages, their transliteration. In the case of Malayalam, that gained a classic status from the Union Government a couple of years ago, all the above mentioned factors are victims. Many of these points were casually discussed in the past in this column but rarely the matter turned into a topic of discussion among the people who mattered.

We all agree that all the Indian languages got evolved from Sanskrit and accepted quite liberally from other languages such as English, Portuguese, Dutch, Latin, Arabic etc. It is understandable that when use words from other languages, we might pronounce them erroneously. However, when we commit the same error with our own Language, it becomes unpardonable.

It is impractical to bring all the points into a small write up and hence only a passing mention is only intended. Readers well versed in Malayalam may ponder over this matter and discuss among peers so that slowly the matter gets sorted out.

**Evolvement of words:** Majority of the words in Malayalam are received from Sanskrit and our neighbourly and scholarly Tamil. While our alphabet was evolved we adopted the rules from Sanskrit and the characters from Tamil. The transformation took a long time. Even after the modern Malayalam script was formed, we used certain usages of other languages. Recently a very old copy of O Chandu Menon's Indulekha came my way and I was surprised to see a certain characteristic in it. Wherever the word 'ഈ' (not the character) was used, it used 'ഠരം' as it is 'FF' in Tamil. Our ഠ is written in Tamil as 'r' and hence the misunderstanding. In its introduction, Chandu Menon writes: "ഠരം പുസ്തകം അച്ചടിക്കുന്നതിൽ സ്പെഷൽ അച്ചുകൂടം സുപ്രധാനം കൊച്ചുകുഞ്ഞന്താൽ എനിക്കു വളരെ ഉപകാരം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്." Now a Malayali may mistake the above sentence with several printing errors. It is not so. A similar pattern was followed by our clerks who prepared land documents for transfer till computerization arrived. The sign 'ഠ' is never used in the entire text. (In the reproduced sentence, 'ഠ' was compelled to be used as the complex characters are now unavailable). The name ഇന്ദുലേഖ was written as ഇന്ദുലേഖ, ഇന്ദുലേഖാ, ഇന്ദുലേഖാ in subsequent editions by several publishers.

Words like അധ്യാപകൻ, മാധ്യമം, അർത്ഥം etc, used in the past, have now become അധ്യാപകൻ, മാധ്യമം, അർത്ഥം. Most of the Malayalees do not know that the character 'ഠ' has five pronunciations as ണ്, ണ്, ണ്, ണ് and മ് as it is in Devnagari 'n'. Majority of them take it as മ് only. They forget the rule enunciated by the father of Malayalam alphabet, mentioned in *Harinamakeerthanam* (ഓനം കണക്കെയുടനഞ്ചക്ഷരങ്ങളുടെ..) and represent that character with 'm' while the entire north Indians use (even the centre Institute for Orient Languages in Pune insists) 'n'. This anomaly creates problems during transliteration. It would be advisable to stick to the laid down rules.

When we transliterate proper nouns of Malayalam into English and then to Devanagari from the English, the name gets a metamorphosis. The name അങ്കമാലി is an example. If we split the second character ക into its components, it becomes ണ്+ക but it is written in English as 'Angamali' and then in English as अंगमालि which is wrong.

(To be continued)



# Kerala in Mumbai

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